Court: SMA has not supported its breach of contract claims vs CPA. PAGE 2
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Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 209

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY OCTOBER 20, 2023 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Public Safety, with help from the U.S. Marshals Service, managed to locate and arrest Juanita Villanueva, a woman wanted for her alleged involvement in the robbery of a man at gunpoint last Sunday, at a residence behind Ador Restaurant in San Antonio

# Villanueva arrested; search for co-conspirators continues

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has arrested Juanita Villanueva, one of three individuals accused of robbing a man at gunpoint last Sunday, and the hunt for her two co-conspirators continues.

*See VILLANUEVA on Page 4*

## DPS faces another unsolved burglary

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is once again seeking the community's help in solving a burglary and theft incident, this time at the Sip and Smile Shop along Pale Arnold in Chalan Lau Lau, that was reported yesterday.

DPS assistant chief of police and acting spokesperson

*See DPS on Page 4*

## Boonie Babies releases new podcast, 'Hot Girls Rescue Dogs'

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

To respond to repeated questions that are constantly asked them and to share a more in-depth look combining their personal lives with their mission, sisters Aria and Grace Keilbach of Boonie Babies

*See BOONIE on Page 4*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Posing with two pups looking for a forever home, Keilbach sisters, Aria, left, and Grace, announce their new "Hot Girls Rescue Dogs" podcast.

## HSEM removes expired PPEs for disposal in Marpi

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has started removing these boxes of expired Personal Protective Equipment that HSEM relocated near the Koblerville Fire Station to prepare for proper disposal at the Marpi Landfill. It was Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) who disclosed recently about the boxes of PPEs, that according to him, are worth millions of dollars being dumped as trash near the Fire Station in Koblerville.

» **HSEM admits relocating to Koblerville boxes of PPEs from San Antonio warehouse as lease is expiring**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It was the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management that dumped the expired boxes of Personal Protective Equipment near the Koblerville

*See HSEM on Page 4*

## INSIDE

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When it comes to packing on the pounds to survive an Alaska winter, this year's undisputed champ is Grazer.
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# Local

## Court: SMA has not supported its breach of contract claims vs CPA

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

After months of legal dispute, the Superior Court has found that Star Marianas Air Inc. has not met its burden of proving claims that the Commonwealth Ports Authority breached sections of their Airline Use Agreement.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho's order denies SMA's request for partial summary judgment.

"SMA has not met its burden to entitle it to summary judgment because plaintiff has not demonstrated absence of genuine issues and entitlement to summary judgment as a matter of law. Therefore, SMA's motion for partial summary judgment is denied," said Camacho.

SMA and CPA entered into an Airline Use Agreement and Lease of Premises, or "AUA," in April 2009. Twenty years later, on Dec. 14, 2020, SMA sued CPA, claiming the agency committed six breaches of the AUA. Specifically, SMA claims CPA breached sections 7.01, 7.02, 7.05, 7.06, 7.07, and 7.10 of the AUA.

However, after reviewing SMA and CPA's arguments and facts brought before the court, Camacho said in his order that there are material facts in dispute and SMA did not support its factual claims to show CPA breached sections 7.01, 7.02, 7.05, 7.06, 7.07, and 7.10.

"One of the principal purposes of the summary judgment rule is to isolate and dispose of factually unsupported or defenses. SMA has not supported its factual claims that CPA did not account for the fees mentioned in sections 7.06, and 7.07. SMA has only assumed that since it argues CPA did not adjust costs as required by section 7.05, it must have not accounted for sections 7.06 and 7.07. SMA has not supported the factual claims that certain provisions do not apply to it or that SMA charged for services and facilities it did not use based on sections 7.02 and 7.05. SMA has not shown there is an absence of genuine issues for the sections as CPA has disputed these factual claims. The moving party [SMA] bears the burden of establishing entitlement to summary judgment. SMA has not met its burden to entitle it to summary judgment,"

*See SMA on Page 4*

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# House committee to weigh Torres subpoena as BOOST probe resumes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The next meeting of a House of Representatives committee that is investigating the previous administration's grant program will focus on whether or not to issue a subpoena to compel former governor Ralph DLG Torres to appear before the committee.

The House of Representatives Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-related Funding will be meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 24, as they continue their probe into the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together Program.

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the committee, said yesterday that they will discuss at that meeting whether or not to issue a subpoena to compel Torres' appearance before the committee.

Yumul said members need to vote whether Torres should be issued a subpoena or not.

The meeting's agenda also includes former Finance secretary David DLG Atalig on the list of those who might be subpoenaed.

At the committee's meeting last Oct. 5, members unanimously agreed to issue a subpoena to compel Atalig's appearance before the panel.

Also on the list are Torres' former chief of staff William M. Castro, former Department of Commerce Economic Development director Jesus Taisague, and contractors Robert Travilla, Salina Sapp, and Shayne Villanueva.

House legal counsel John Bradley recently stated that witnesses have the option under both U.S. and CNMI constitutions to invoke their privilege not to talk if they think the question will incriminate them. He said the summoned witnesses, however, have to appear before the committee.

The committee is first issuing what's called "Letter 1309" to different agencies. In Commonwealth Code, that refers to the acquisition of information by other lawful means.

The BOOST Program was a project of the previous Office of the Governor and the Department of Commerce that aimed to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and non-profit organizations.

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# EPA inspector finds CUC's continued lack of chief engineer quite alarming

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act inspector John Tinger finds it "quite alarming" that, with hundreds of millions of dollars of federal funds coming into the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the agency does not have a certified chief engineer on staff for several years now.

"For any utility not to have a…certified engineer on staff, but especially for the amount of money and projects coming in, is a real concern for us," said Tinger yesterday in his presentation before the CUC board's special meeting.

Larry Manacop has been serving as CUC acting chief engineer with the water/wastewater division for many years now.

Tinger also disclosed that the number of sewer overflows have been significantly reduced by the improvements to the pump stations and that the wastewater treatment plants have been generally in compliance even with some of the problems caused by typhoons and other issues that keep cropping up.

"I think it's a testament to the CUC staff out in the field to really put in the extra effort and so many ways to keep things running. A lot of real kudos to the CUC operators and staff who…keep things running," he said.

Tinger, who has been the enforcement officer for federal stipulated orders for over 10 years now, said the chief engineer position has been particularly problematic in terms of hiring. Tinger said there hasn't been a functioning chief engineer for six, seven years at this point.

"It's been a quite a while. And the fact is that a chief engineer has to have a professional engineering certificate," he pointed out.

Tinger said the federal court's stipulated order does establish a minimum criteria and requirements for eight management positions within CUC. He said that was established early on in the program because there was a realization that certain managers didn't have the necessary experience to lead CUC.

"So that's an ongoing issue since I've been on the project, being able to retain people who meet those standards," Tinger said.

He stated those who have stepped in, especially acting executive director Betty G. Terlaje, and others who stepped into those positions, have done an exemplary job.

Tinger, however, noted that it is incredibly important to have permanent positions in those roles and that's a real priority for EPA to get these stipulated order positions filled.

He said a lot of progress have been made and they've been able to meet some of the new folks, which is good. However, Tinger said, there does remain the executive director position, the chief financial officer, and the chief engineer, which remain unfilled.

**A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com**

## BOONIE

*From page 1*

have created a podcast series called "Hot Girls Rescue Dogs," which aired its first episode last Oct. 10 on Spotify and Apple Music Podcasts.

Grace Keilbach shared with *Saipan Tribune* that the podcast is something that she and her sister have been working on for a while now.

"We always get a lot of questions from people, not only on Saipan but around the world too, of how the heck did the two of you end up on this island doing what you're doing, so we thought that a podcast would be the perfect platform to not only share a bit of more of our own personal lives but further continue to advocate for what we stand for, which is saving the boonies and improving animal welfare on Saipan," she said,

The term "boonie dog" refers to the many stray dogs on Saipan, many of them descended from World War II dogs that were left on the islands by the U.S. military.

When asked about the reason behind the podcast name, Grace Keilbach said she and her sister had been receiving so much hate online after posting photos with the dogs while wearing their bikinis—comments that try to negate their efforts and all the work that they have done for the island and the dogs.

"…Many people were hating on us and really taking that all away, solely based on the fact that we are two girls and wear our bikinis to the beach. So, we kind of wanted to reclaim that phrase 'hot girls' that people have used in kind of a derogatory, negative way and share that there's so much more to us, just like there's so much more to a lot more women who are facing the same issues," she said.

They never really intended for the podcast and the "hot girls rescue dogs" slogan to be that big of a deal but she said that has become a big slogan of Boonie Babies.

"It's just our way of reclaiming the words and the negativity and saying it doesn't matter what you think of us or who we are as people. The work that we are doing is making a difference and take it or leave it," Grace Keilbach said.

The podcasts are available on Spotify and Apple Podcast and they release an episode every Tuesday. They currently have two episodes out now.

"The goal of the podcast is to continue sharing the beauty of Saipan, but [also] the neglect that our island faces from an outside perspective, especially when it comes to animal welfare. …Through a podcast we're able to more intricately share these details and reach a larger audience," she said.

She said they are hoping to feature some guests soon "so we're excited to share another viewpoint from somebody that has got entangled into the happy mess."

Grace Keilbach said the idea for the podcast first came to them late last year. "We sat down, recorded one episode, and absolutely hated it, and then haven't picked it up since. And then last month, we decided to actually take this seriously. It's hard to hear yourself talk. I think a lot of people can relate to that. It's hard to be proud of your own work and when you're seeing yourself on the screen or any type of recording or picture. That was one thing we really struggled with, but we decided we're just going to do it and share what we have," she said.

The podcast isn't the only thing up their sleeves these past months. She said they are also coming out with a new "Boonies and Bikinis" calendars. The 2024 calendar would feature many of the amazing women on Saipan and Guam who are active in the rescue scene.

She knows that some people aren't used to seeing young girls running a rescue while sharing their personal lives, so they are hoping the calendar would be one way to counter that.

"We're excited to share that [calendar] for many reasons, but one is that in our line of work, we don't get to do a lot of fun projects. Animal rescue is extremely, emotionally draining; so we're having so much fun working on something that's bringing a lot of joy to our lives and we hope is able to raise a lot of money for the dogs as well." she said.

Boonie Babies currently has 22 dogs in their care that are looking for forever homes.

## HSEM

*From page 1*

Fire Station to prepare for disposal at the Marpi Landfill and HSEM has been removing the PPEs for the last two days.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about the boxes of expired PPEs, HSEM public information officer Bernard Villagomez disclosed that they are finishing the disposal today, Friday.

Villagomez said HSEM removed the PPEs from the temporary warehouse in San Antonio because the lease was expiring.

PPE refers to equipment that is worn to minimize a range of hazards, including physical, chemical, and biological hazards.

During the House of Representatives session last Oct. 12, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) disclosed that boxes and boxes of PPEs worth millions of dollars have been dumped as trash in Koblerville. He described the scene as "pretty disturbing" and stated he hasn't heard from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's Office about this matter despite the wanton waste of federal monies.

Villagomez said yesterday that a disposal plan was being reviewed by the Department of Public Works when the warehouse lease expired and that this prompted the HSEM to transfer the expired PPEs near the Koblerville Fire Station.

He said that, as per guidelines from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, all states and territories were given 90 days after May 11, 2023 to complete the demobilization, disposition, and disposal activities.

He disclosed that the CNMI requested a 90-day extension, which was later approved by the FEMA regional manager.

Villagomez said the final deadline for the proper disposal of the expired PPEs must be no later than Nov. 7, 2023.

He said PPEs have an expiration date because the materials and components used to make them deteriorate over time, reducing their effectiveness and potentially compromising the safety of the people using the equipment.

He said the integrity of the materials used to make gloves, gowns, and other protective clothing is vulnerable to high temperatures, moisture, and chemicals.

"This can lead to tears, holes, and other defects that compromise the effectiveness of the PPEs," he said.

FEMA provided HSEM with PPEs to ensure the safety of first responders from infectious diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic that occurred in 2020.

Villagomez said when the surplus of PPEs arrived, they were immediately transferred to a temporary San Antonio warehouse.

He said HSEM offered the PPEs to other CNMI agencies and other islands of Micronesia.

He said FEMA would not accept any returns because the PPEs were approaching their expiration date and the capacity of the temporary San Antonio warehouse had been reached.

## VILLANUEVA

*From page 1*

In a statement from DPS assistant chief of police and acting spokesperson Simon T. Manacop, he said that, with the help of federal law enforcement partners, DPS managed to locate and arrest Villanueva at 10:35am yesterday in a residence at San Antonio.

"Villanueva has been apprehended without incident. …DPS detectives, along with U.S. Marshals, located her at a residence…behind the Ador Restaurant in San Antonio," he said.

DPS is still on the lookout for Villanueva's co-conspirators. "Investigations continue in identifying the other two suspects," Manacop said.

If anyone has information about this, they may call the DPS Criminal Investigation Division at 670-664-9042, DPS headquarters at 670-664-9001, or the Crime Stoppers hotline at 670-234-7272 if they wish to remain anonymous.

According to a previous *Saipan Tribune* article, the victim in the case claimed that he was robbed at gunpoint while parked at the San Antonio beach side behind the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School.

The victim told police he later drove to the Pacific Islands Club Saipan where he reported the incident.

Although the victim was unharmed, the suspects were able to steal his wallet containing $300, his CNMI driver's license, a Discover credit card, and a Bank of Hawaii debit card.

## DPS

*From page 1*

Simon T. Manacop said the department is again calling for the community's help in solving this latest incident.

According to Manacop, the incident was reported at about 10:18am on Thursday, Oct. 19. Officers noted that the Sip and Smile Shop closed at 7pm the night before so the incident happened later.

Preliminary investigation found that an employee arrived at the store to open for business and saw the mess behind the cash register counter.

The employee later discovered that the rear door to the establishment had been forced open and the window of a room in the back of the store had been shattered.

Among the items stolen were assorted cigarettes and vape products with an estimated total value of $2,000.

No arrest has been made in this case as of press time.

"DPS seeks the community's assistance in putting closure to this case. If anyone has information about this incident, please call the DPS Criminal Investigation Division at 670-664-9042, DPS headquarters at 670-664-9001 or the Crime Stoppers hotline at 670-234-7272 if they wish to remain anonymous. DPS also encourages the public to call the emergency line 911 to report a crime or emergency," Manacop said.

Prior to this incident, DPS saw a string of robberies in San Antonio, Garapan, and Capital Hill and is on the hunt for two of three people who participated in robbing a man at gunpoint in a San Antonio beach last Sunday.

It was at the San Antonio robbery where a man was held at gunpoint.

In the Capital Hill robbery, two men allegedly broke into a residence in the early hours of Oct. 15 where an 84-year-old man was sleeping.

The two men, described as masked men, allegedly held the elderly man at knife-point and rummaged his house and were able to steal about $650 and some personal items.

## SMA

*From page 2*

Camacho said.

According to SMA's complaint, the first claim, section 7.01, governed charges on a per-passenger basis for the first year. However, SMA claims CPA continued to impose first-year charges during the entire term of the AUA.

The second claim was that CPA failed to compute charges based on SMA's utilization of services and facilities based on section 7.02, ultimately breaching the AUA.

Third, SMA states that CPA failed to compute charges for services and facilities based on CPA's actual cost and SMA's utilization as required by section 7.05.

SMA also claimed that CPA failed to properly calculate the fees and charges as required by sections 7.06 and 7.07 on an annual basis.

Lastly, SMA argued that CPA failed to calculate rates and charges for preceding fiscal years and calculate overpayment and underpayments as required by section 7.10.

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*From top to bottom: Joseph John Muna, 2018 Northern Mariana Islands awardee; Peter Loken, 2016 Northern Mariana Islands awardee; Dora Miura, 2015 Northern Mariana Islands awardee*

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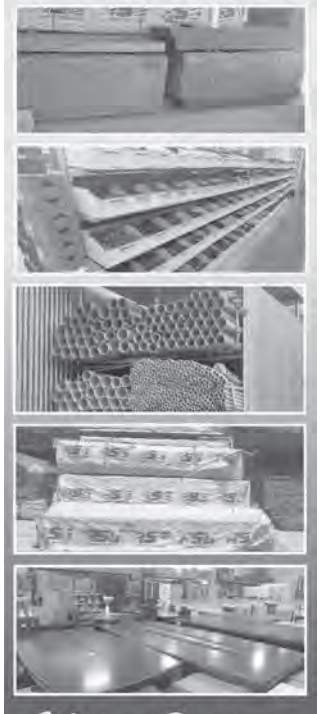
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# MVA preps for major trade show ITB Asia, JATA Tourism Expo

The Marianas Visitors Authority will join two major travel shows this month—ITB Asia in Singapore and Japan Association of Travel Agents Tourism Expo Japan in Osaka, Japan.

ITB Asia, the leading travel trade show in Asia, will be held on Oct. 25-27, 2023, in Singapore. ITB Asia is an annual B2B trade show and convention for the travel industry designed to be the primary event for the Asia-Pacific travel industry. With over 20,000 business appointments recorded at ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia, and Travel Tech Asia 2022, this year's show will provide an opportunity for the MVA to explore and establish new partnerships with exhibitors and buyers from across all segments of MICE, corporate, and leisure travel in the region.

JATA Tourism Expo, one of the world's largest annual travel festivals, will be held in Osaka on Oct. 26-29, 2023. The expo, to be held at the International Exhibition Center, brings together countries and regions from all over the world. The MVA will also host a Marianas Seminar on Oct. 30 for in-depth information exchange and partnership-building with travel trade and media representatives in the Osaka and Kansai region. A similar seminar was held earlier this year in Tokyo.

"ITB Asia and JATA Tourism Expo Japan are the two largest trade shows the MVA will participate in this year, providing extensive, in-person access to potential visitors and key travel trade and media reps that are potential new avenues to promote The Marianas," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "And as Osaka is the second largest city in Japan, the Marianas Seminar will give us further opportunity to enhance strategic partnerships or develop new ones to increase travel to our destination from this region, which was once a top source city for The Marianas."

At the shows, the MVA will distribute information about The Marianas and MVA member businesses, conduct Q&A with attendees, offer audio-visual presentations and cultural demonstrations, and more. ***(MVA)***

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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### PUBLIC NOTICE/AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda*
- D. Adoption of Minutes
  1. August 17, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
  2. October 4, 2023 Special Board Meeting
  3. October 19, 2023, Special Board Meeting
- E. Correspondence

II. Management Report
- A. Executive Director's Report
- B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
- C. Legal Counsel's Report

III. Committee Reports
- A. Personnel Committee – Administrative Review Update

IV. Old Business
- A. Update on the Recruitment for the Executive Director's Position
- B. Update on Telesource Matters
- C. Proposed Amendments to CUC's Procurement Rules and Regulations
- D. Classification and Compensation Plan
- E. Amendment of CUC Board Bylaws

V. New Business
- A. FY-2021 Financial Audit Report
- B. Bank Signatory Policy
- C. Travel Policy
- D. PFAS/PFOA Multistate Litigation
- E. Water/Wastewater Engineering Reorganization
- F. Executive Director Recruitment Committee
- G. Net Metering Law

VI. Public Comments**

VII. Executive Session*

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjournment

/s/
JANICE A. TENORIO, CHAIRWOMAN

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, to consult with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
FIVE (5) WELDERS

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Read and understand blueprints; Source required materials to be used in projects; Measure and cut materials to specifications using hand and power tools common to the welding trade, such as shielded metal arc and gas metal arc welding equipment; Select and install torches, torch tips, filler rods, and flux, according to welding chart specifications or types and thicknesses of metals; Determine required equipment and welding methods, applying knowledge of metallurgy, geometry, and welding techniques; Monitor the fitting, burning, and welding processes to avoid overheating of parts or warping, shrinking, distortion, or expansion of material; Grind, cut, buff, or bend edges of workpieces to be joined to ensure snug fit, using power grinders and hand tools; Weld separately or in combination, using aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, and other alloys; Chip or grind off excess weld, slag, or spatter, using hand scrapers or power chippers, portable grinders, or arc-cutting equipment; Develop templates and models for welding projects, using mathematical calculations based on blueprint information; Repair products by dismantling, straightening, reshaping, and reassembling parts, using cutting torches, straightening presses, and hand tools; Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Diploma/GED or foreign equivalent is acceptable;
- Applicants must be able to provide qualifying certifications for U.S. Standard of Practice; and
- Minimum of three (3) years-experience in fuel tank welding with SMAW and TIG 6G Processes.

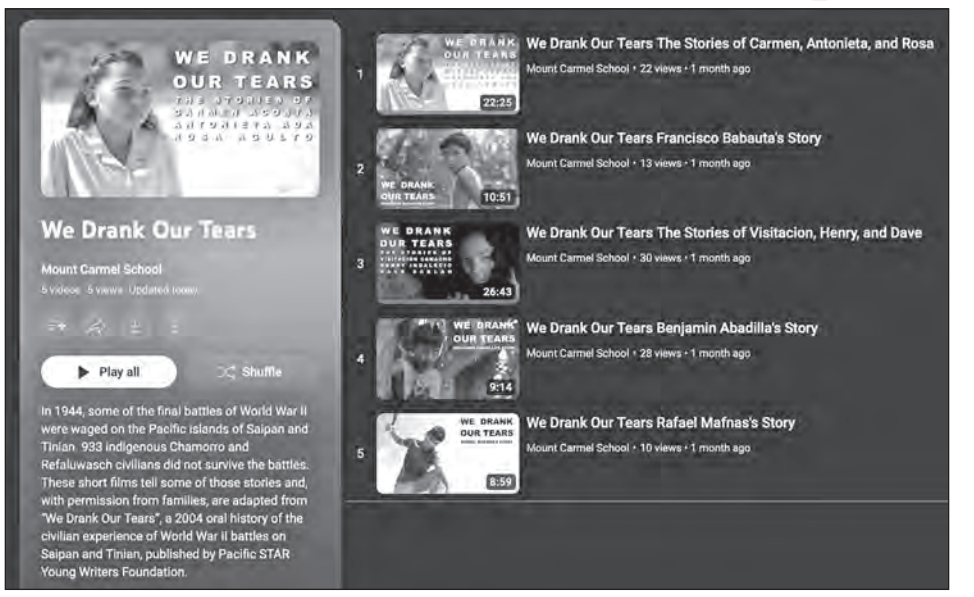
WORKING CONDITIONS:
- Flexible hours that include evenings & weekends not to exceed 40/hrs. a week; &
- Travel within the islands of the CNMI (Rota & Tinian) and the Territory of Guam to perform the job duties at constructions sites where Employer's services are required or have been contracted.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Shawn Curtis Holt, General Manager
General Asia Pacific Construction, LLC
World War II Lane, Garapan
PMB 430 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 1 (541) 704-8364
E-mail: shawn.holt@gapconfuels.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

# All 'We Drank Our Tears' films rolled out on YouTube for educators and the public


WE DRANK OUR TEARS
We Drank Our Tears
Mount Carmel School
Play all
Shuffle
In 1944, some of the final battles of World War II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian. 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles. These short films tell some of those stories and, with permission from families, are adapted from "We Drank Our Tears", a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation.
1 We Drank Our Tears The Stories of Carmen, Antonieta, and Rosa
Mount Carmel School • 22 views • 1 month ago
22:25
2 We Drank Our Tears Francisco Babauta's Story
Mount Carmel School • 13 views • 1 month ago
10:51
3 We Drank Our Tears The Stories of Visitacion, Henry, and Dave
Mount Carmel School • 30 views • 1 month ago
26:43
4 We Drank Our Tears Benjamin Abadilla's Story
Mount Carmel School • 28 views • 1 month ago
9:14
5 We Drank Our Tears Rafael Mafnas's Story
Mount Carmel School • 10 views • 1 month ago
8:59

MCS

A screenshot of the "We Drank Our Tears" playlist on Mount Carmel School's YouTube channel. All films in the award-winning "We Drank Our Tears" anthology series were recently uploaded for use by educators and viewing by the general public.

Mount Carmel School announced that all films in the award-winning "We Drank Our Tears" anthology series have been uploaded onto the school's YouTube channel for use by educators and viewing by the general public.

The announcement comes after the films were featured at the 2023 Marianas History Conference and the "Saipan's Land and Sea: Battle Scars & Sites of Resilience," a residential educational program focused on World War II education and presented by Eastern Carolina University.

The films are accompanied by resources for history teachers, including a lesson plan and slide deck that aim to cultivate more agency among students in the active study of history. Using the framework of conflict in storytelling, teachers can have students study and engage in a film or a story in order to examine the role of agency among marginalized groups in history as well as agency in their own lives.

The writer and producer of the film series and president of Northern Marianas College, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, is excited that the school is sharing these resources. He said, "These films have empowered a whole new generation of storytellers to learn more about their history and tell these important stories of resiliency and hope." All films in the series were made primarily with students from the school serving as cast and crew members. As Deleon Guerrero noted, "Just as the original book was the work of young students chronicling the stories of their elders in print, these films are the work of young students chronicling the stories of our islands in film."

All films in the series are adapted from "We Drank Our Tears," a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation. In 1944, some of the final battles of World War II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian. 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles. The book and the film series tell some of those stories.

For more information about the films or Mount Carmel School, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(MCS)***

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# SIS named to Advanced Placement School Honor Roll

SIS

Some of the 23 Saipan International School seniors that helped SIS make the AP Honor Roll.

The College Board announced that Saipan International School has been named to the Advanced Placement Program School Honor Roll, earning Gold distinction.

The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

SIS had 80% of seniors who took at least one AP exam during high school, 50% of seniors scoring a three or higher on at least one AP exam, and 15% of seniors who took five or more AP exams.

A total of 23 SIS students took at least one AP exam and they are the following: Aubrey Ricci Castro, Audrey Lizbeth Castro, Mark Chavez, Hyun Min Chung, Serin Chung, Olivia Hwang, Hero Jeon, Kevin Kim, Minseong Kim, Stephanie Kim, Li Sha Lai, Seohee Lee, Lian Qi Li, Hui Qiao Lin (Lynn Ivy), John Linden, I Hou Loi, Parveen Mingefiiy, Claire Sohyun Park, Yelin Park, Yebin Shin, Jeremy Yoon, Tony Li, and Angel Li.

SIS offers 15 Advanced Placement courses, the highest number in the CNMI. "The mission of SIS is to help each child reach his or her full potential," said Dr. Ron Snyder, SIS headmaster. "We have committed fully to the Advanced Placement program as a way of helping our high school students reach their potential to have the best possible career and college preparation at school."

"AP represents an opportunity for students to stand out to colleges, earn college credit and placement, and potentially boost their grade point averages," said Trevor Packer, head of the AP program. "The schools have shown that they can expand access to these college-level courses and still drive high performance— they represent the best of our AP program."

SIS was founded in 1994 and this year marks its 30th year anniversary. SIS serves a very diverse student body for students in K-12. At the primary level, its program focusses on literacy skills and socioemotional development. Beginning in grade one, all SIS students undertake a study of Mandarin Chinese as part of its core instruction. In secondary school, students embark on a highly rigorous, university-preparatory program that has seen great success. Despite its small student body, SIS students have been highly successful, leading the CNMI in number of AP Scholars and AP Capstone Diploma recipients.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program enables students to pursue college-level studies—with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both—while still in high school. Through AP courses in 38 subjects, each culminating in a challenging exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue—skills that prepare them for college and beyond. ***(PR)***


KARIDAT
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

**A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service**
**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**
**(1) ACCOUNTANT**

For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office in Dandan Village, Dandan Road, or interested applicants can email: info@karidat.org to receive a position description and fillable application form.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
**CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, October 20, 2023 AT 4:00 PM**

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# Biden to nominate Gogo as US Attorney for Guam, CNMI

President Joseph Biden is announcing his intent to nominate California Judge Johnny C. Gogo to become the U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands.

The announcement forms part of a wider White House announcement yesterday that Biden will nominate two individuals to federal district courts—Sara E. Hill and John D. Russell, both nominees for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Both nominees are described in White House news release as "extraordinarily qualified, experienced, and devoted to the rule of law and our Constitution."

Guam-born Gogo is a judge with the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, in San Jose, California where he has served since 2019. Previously, Gogo served as a deputy district attorney with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office from 2001 to 2019 and from 1999 to 2000.

From 2000 to 2001, he was an associate attorney at Calvo and Clark, LLP in Tamuning, Guam and from 1997 to 1999, he served as an assistant attorney general in the prosecution division of the Guam Attorney General's Office.

Gogo received his J.D., cum laude, from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 1996 and his B.A. from the University of California, San Diego in 1991.

"These choices also continue to fulfill the President's promise to ensure that the nation's courts reflect the diversity that is one of our greatest assets as a country—both in terms of personal and professional backgrounds," the news release added. "These are officials who will be indispensable to upholding the rule of law as top federal law enforcement officials. These individuals were chosen for their devotion to enforcing the law, their professionalism, their experience and credentials, their dedication to pursuing equal justice for all, and their commitment to the independence of the Department of Justice."

This will be Biden's 40th round of nominees for federal judicial positions, bringing the number of announced federal judicial nominees to 193.

The current U.S. Attorney for Guam and the CNMI is Shawn N. Anderson.

The President is also announcing his intent to nominate Joshua S. Levy as U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

Biden also has two new nominees to serve as U.S. Marshal: Clinton J. Fuchs for the District of Maryland and David L. Lemmon II for the Southern District of West Virginia

The President has now announced 74 nominees to serve as U.S. Attorneys and 24 nominees to serve as U.S. Marshals.

The President is also announcing his intent to re-nominate two experienced and qualified Commissioners of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, a bipartisan independent agency created during the Reagan Administration. ***(PR)***

# Updated COVID-19 vaccines for 2023-2024 virus season

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. supports the latest recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration.

The updated COVID-19 vaccines authorized and recommended by the FDA and CDC this fall provides protection against circulating variants of the virus, preventing potential serious outcomes such as hospitalization and death. Vaccination continues to be one of the best resources in the toolkit against COVID-19 and everyone six months and older is recommended to receive the updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines.

The recommendations for the updated COVID-19 vaccine are as follows:

- Everyone ages 5 years and older is recommended to receive 1 dose of updated (2023-2024 Formula) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine
- Children ages 6 months to 4 years should receive two doses Moderna or three doses of Pfizer updated COVID-19 vaccine if initial vaccination; if received previous mRNA doses, one or two doses of Moderna or Pfizer is needed, depending on prior doses
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may need additional doses depending on prior doses received and should consult with their primary care provider.

Individuals can receive the updated COVID-19 vaccine through the following CHCC sites:

- Immunization Clinic
- Outpatient Clinics (Children's, Women's, and Family Care)
- Rota Health Center
- Tinian Health Center
- Mobile Clinic
- Outreach events

Alternatively, COVID-19 vaccines are available through the Vaccines for Children partner sites (Medical Associates of the Pacific, Marianas Medical Center, Kagman Isla Community Health, Tinian Isla Community Health, and Southern Isla Community Health). Please contact these respective clinics for more information.

Most insurance carriers cover the cost of the COVID-19 vaccines. Additionally, individuals who are uninsured or underinsured may qualify for free vaccination through the CHCC Immunization and Vaccines for Children program. ***(PR)***

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**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP NO.: RFP23-OPD/DLNR-DFW-42300108**

**SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS FOR MIHA AND THE GARAPAN WATERSHED"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TO MS. ERIN DERRINGTON, VIA EMAIL AT erin.derrington@opd.gov.mp OR MR. BRADLEY EICHELBERGER, VIA EMAIL AT beichelberger.cnmi.dfw@gmail.com

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ELIZABETH S. BALAJADIA**
**ACTING DIRECTOR, OPD**

**/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.**
**ACTING DIRECTOR, PS**

**/S/ SYLVAN O. IGISOMAR**
**SECRETARY, DLNR**

# Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors meeting this Saturday

**TAMUNING, Guam**—The Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors will host its annual general membership meeting and drive on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the Dededo Senior Citizen Center from 9am to 2pm. The meeting is open to the public.

PARS is a 20-year-old non-profit organization that has been advocating since its inception for the inclusion of Guam as a "downwinder" area under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. The RECA program will provide $150,000 and medical benefits for eligible downwinders who were present in Guam from 1946 to 1962 and have been diagnosed with one of the cancers associated with radiation exposure.

■ Lt. Bert Schreiber, a retired United States Navy, provided a sworn affidavit stating that measuring scales revealed that Guam's radiation exposure was "off the chart" during nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. Relative information to the exposure remained classified until the 1990s. PARS president Robert N. Celestial discovered the unclassified documents and pursued the affidavit from Lt. Schreiber.

■ In 2002, the National Academies of Science concluded in a published report that Guam qualifies as downwinder under RECA.

■ In July, 2023, the US Senate adopted S.Amdt 1058 to the Senate's FY 2023 NDAA. This amendment expands "downwinder" eligibility to Guam and other states and extends the RECA program another 19 years.

■ On Aug. 8, 2023, the 37th Guam Legislature adopted Resolution No. 171-37 (LS) expressing their support for the passage of RECA Amendments of 2023, S.1751 and H.R.4426 to the final FY 2024 NDAA by the 118th Congress. The amendments include the people of Guam as "downwinders" of the U.S. Pacific nuclear test sites, extend the claims period, and improve compensation and benefits.

In July, 2024, RECA will sunset if Congress does not take action.

Registration for the PARS General Membership Meeting for members and nonmembers can be done on-site at the Dededo Senior Citizens Center or online through the following link: https://forms.gle/vHR2FnrTBfVYzTZB9.

A membership fee of $20.00 will be collected onsite, however, membership is not required to attend the meeting. ***(PR)***

# Nihi Indigenous Media announces 4-episode show

**HAGATNA, Guam**—Nihi Indigenous Media announces the release of their newest series, Marianas Cousins: a 4-episode show that features a child from each of the southern sister islands of b, as they take you through their daily lives, capturing the simple joys and timeless beauty of homeland and the village.

The trailer was released last Oct. 4 and the Guåhan episode released the following week.

It was followed by the Luta episode, which comes out today. Tånom (Guåhan), Isaiah (Luta), Celeste (Tinian), and Ina (Saipan) are the stars of this season.

Director Cara Flores states, "Our land connections begin in childhood with simple joys: the tree that we planted with our nåna, our grandpa's farm, the beach that dad taught us to fish at, the swimming spot where we first jumped into the ocean with our friends. This series celebrates those connections to the land and to each other, across our islands."

In addition to filming in Guåhan where the production house is based out of, the Nihi Indigenous film crew also spent three weeks filming in the Northern Mariana Islands with five intense days of filming in each island.

"We want to express our gratitude to each of our sister islands for welcoming us so graciously and for allowing us to capture these special places. We couldn't have asked for better host families who let us into their homes, clans, and villages," said Flores.

Co-producer Siobhon McManus states, "This series is a reminder that our people across the islands are beautiful, thriving, and kind. There's nothing more special than belonging to the Marianas."

To watch Marianas Cousins, subscribe to the Nihi Indigenous Media YouTube channel or follow @nihiindigenousmedia on instagram. Nihi Indigenous Media productions may also be viewed across the stations of KUAM Communications (TV8 and TV11) on broadcast and cable (GTA and Docomo) in Guam and over (Docomo) cable TV in the CNMI.

You can also catch the programs streaming on the KUAM local channel on Peacock, the streaming service from NBC available in Guam and the CNMI.

Nihi Indigenous Media is a Guåhan-based, grassroots CHamoru production house. Our core mission as a non-profit with activist roots is to equip the next generation of protectors. They're an indigenous-led, creative team that deeply believes in their obligation to future generations, to our community, and to our region. We amplify indigenous knowledge, issues, and stories in Guåhan, the Mariånas, and across Micronesia, working to inspire a deep love for our land, ocean and communities.

Nihi Indigenous Media Socials

■ Instagram: @nihiindigenousmedia, https://www.instagram.com/nihiindigenousmedia/

■ Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/@NihiIndigenousMedia

■ Marianas Cousins Behind the Scenes/Teaser: https://youtu.be/NNVmO1oge4U?si=Phbz6NVK0KKnQBOa

■ Guåhan episode: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGniy67g3Uw ***(PR)***

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## NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA/TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

**Project No.: CPA-IFB-005-23**
**CPA Concession No.: TAD-2023-01-02**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning September 27, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport or at the CPA Office located at the Francisco Manglona Borja/ Tinian International Airport. CPA offices are closed every other Monday beginning Monday, October 2, 2023 for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts of the advertisement area and other requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of $100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Tinian Port Manager, Antonio L. Borja through email at alborja@cnmiports.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than October 11, 2023.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-005-23." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, October 31, 2023, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on October 31, 2023, at 3:00p.m. at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

9/25/2023
Date

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 208

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Mark Rabago** EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

# The Biden White House must get serious with Iran

Israel made it clear on Monday that Iran will pay a price if it escalates the Gaza crisis through its Hezbollah proxy in the north. The Biden administration must send the same message.

Iran has become increasingly belligerent in recent days, warning of a "huge earthquake" if Israel doesn't cease its military response to the vicious Hamas terror attacks. But if a de-escalation is the goal, perhaps Iran could start by cutting off its financial support to radical militants while calling off Hezbollah and recognizing Israeli's right to exist and defend itself.

Instead, continued Iranian provocations have led to concerns that the nation could use Israel's Gaza response as a precursor to open another front in the war against the Jewish state.

"We can't rule out that Iran would choose to get directly engaged some way," Jake Sullivan, President Joe Biden's national security adviser, said on CBS's "Face the Nation" on Sunday. "We have to prepare for every possible contingency."

That must include making it abundantly clear to the mullahs that the United States will extract a price for Iranian efforts to intensify the conflict. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did precisely that on Monday, warning "Don't test us" during a speech at an Israeli parliamentary session that was interrupted by rocket fire in Jerusalem.

Given the region's history, Iran and others in the Middle East know Mr. Netanyahu should be taken seriously. But what about the United States and the Biden White House?

Mr. Sullivan said Sunday that the administration has used diplomatic back channels to communicate a stern message to Iran. The president has also sent two aircraft carriers to the region as a sign of solidarity with Israel.

"Moving the two carriers into the region sends a very strong signal," Gen. Frank McKenzie, the retired commander of the U.S. Central Command, said over the weekend. "There is ample historical evidence that Iran respects the flow of combat forces into the theater. It does affect their decision calculus. And as Iran's decision calculus is affected, so is Lebanese Hezbollah's calculus affected."

Whether that's true in this case remains to be seen. Either way, as The Wall Street Journal noted Monday, "The Ayatollahs in Tehran need to understand that more than their terrorist proxies are at risk. They need to know that their nuclear sites and oil fields are also on the target list."

American policy toward Iran over the past decade has been a hallmark of mixed signals and even appeasement. But there must be no doubt that the United States will do what it takes to subdue any Iranian efforts to provoke a wider conflict.

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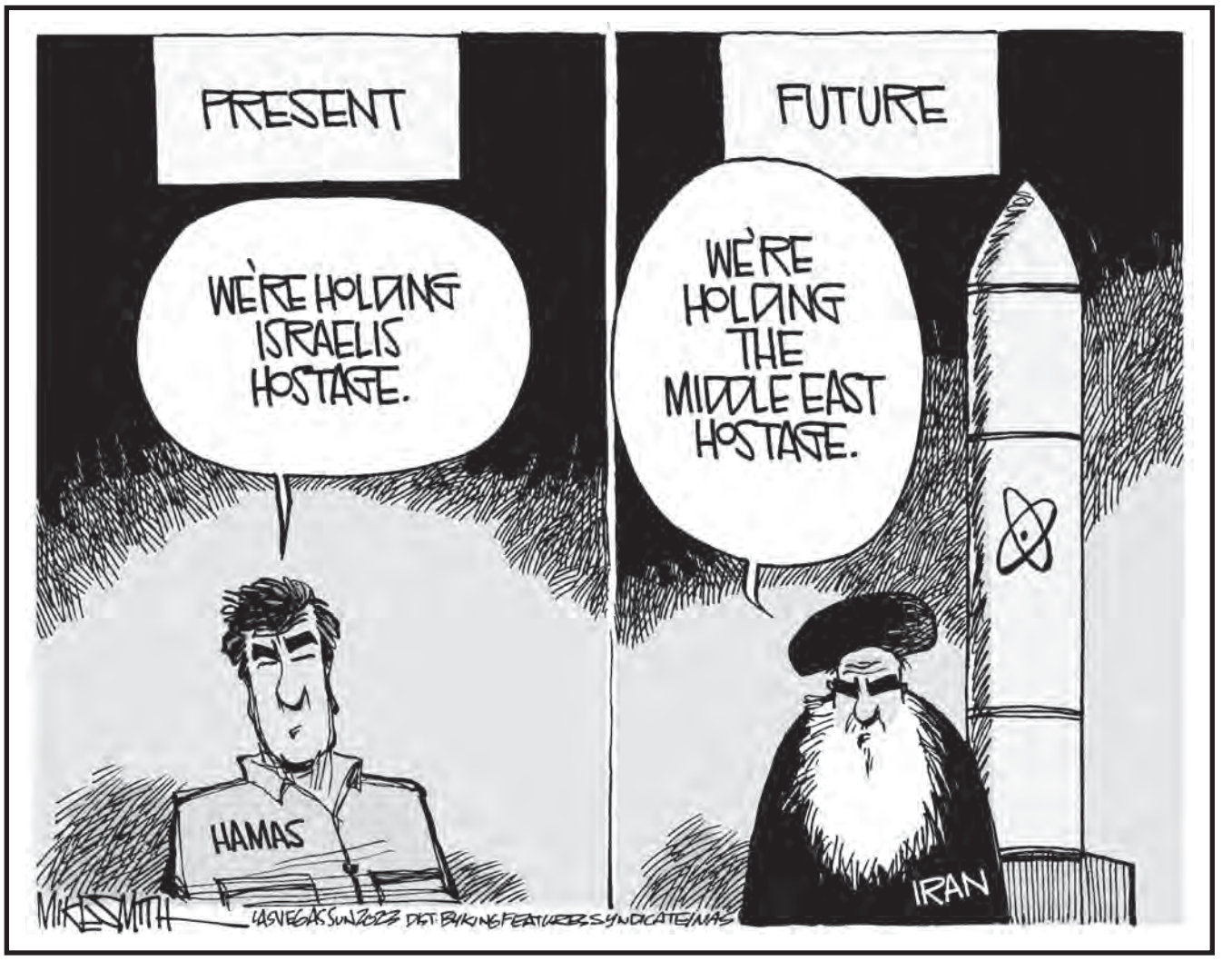



# A federal judge's gag order against Trump may be satisfying. But it isn't constitutional

**By ERWIN CHEMERINSKY**
Los Angeles Times

*Erwin Chemerinsky is a contributing writer to* Opinion *and the dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law. His latest book is* Worse Than Nothing: The Dangerous Fallacy of Originalism.

Although I often wish that Donald Trump would shut up, he has a constitutional right not to. A federal judge went too far in restricting his free expression Monday when she imposed a gag order on the former president.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who is presiding over the Washington prosecution of Trump for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, ordered him to refrain from rhetoric targeting prosecutors and court personnel as well as inflammatory statements about likely witnesses.

Chutkan issued the order in response to a motion from special counsel Jack Smith. Trump has said on social media that Smith is "deranged," that the judge is "a radical Obama hack" and that the court system is "rigged." He has also attacked potential witnesses such as former Vice President Mike Pence.

"This is not about whether I like the language Mr. Trump uses," Chutkan said in announcing her decision from the bench. "This is about language that presents a danger to the administration of justice." She added that Trump's presidential candidacy "does not give him carte blanche" to threaten public servants. The judge said that "1st Amendment protections yield to the administration of justice and to the protection of witnesses."

I certainly understand Chutkan's desire to limit such speech, and this is obviously a unique case with no similar precedents. But basic 1st Amendment principles cast serious doubt on the judge's order.

The Supreme Court has long held that court orders prohibiting speech constitute "prior restraint" and are allowed only in extraordinary and compelling circumstances. In New York Times Co. v. United States (1971), for example, the justices held that the courts could not constitutionally enjoin newspapers from publishing the Pentagon Papers, a history of America's involvement in the Vietnam War. The Supreme Court held that there is a strong presumption against orders preventing speech.

Even more to the point, in Nebraska Press Assn. v. Stuart (1976), the justices held that the courts can almost never keep the press from reporting on criminal cases, even when the goal is to protect a defendant's right to a fair trial.

Although the Supreme Court hasn't considered gag orders on parties to a case and their lawyers, the same strong presumption should apply against such prior restraints. What is particularly troubling about Chutkan's order is that it seems primarily concerned with protecting prosecutors and court personnel from Trump's vitriol. The law is clear that speech can't be restricted to prevent government officials from being criticized or even vilified.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the 1st Amendment protects a right to criticize government officials, even harshly. In New York Times Co. v. Sullivan (1964), the court unanimously declared that the amendment reflects a "profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open, and that it may well include vehement, caustic, and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials."

There is no reason to believe, moreover, that Trump's criticism of Smith, his staff or court personnel will prevent a fair trial. It is impossible to imagine that Trump's attacks will change how the prosecutors behave. And given all that Trump has said and all that has been said about the events of Jan. 6, it is inconceivable that more speech will do much more to prejudice prospective jurors.

Whether Chutkan's order is constitutional insofar as it keeps Trump from speaking about witnesses is a harder question. Trump has already appeared to threaten potential witnesses. The day after his August arraignment, for example, Trump posted on social media: "If you go after me, I'm coming after you."

But it is important to note that the witnesses Trump has attacked are former high-level officials such as Pence and Attorney General William Barr. (Chutkan ruled that Trump can talk about Pence as a rival for the Republican presidential nomination but not as a potential witness in the case.) There is little reason to believe that Pence or Barr would be intimidated by Trump and strong grounds for protecting criticism of what they did as public officials, even by Trump. Also, Chutkan could have issued a narrower order limited to speech about witnesses but didn't.

Ultimately, the judge imposed a gag order on Trump because his speech is often unpleasant and offensive. But that is simply not a basis for restricting speech under the 1st Amendment. We may loathe what Trump says, but we must defend his right to say it.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# NDEAM: A counselor's message

**By JANE TUDELA**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I was a guidance counselor at NMC Upward Bound Program the first time I got to work with a student with disability who was interested in attending Northern Marianas College after high school. In the context of vocational rehabilitation, we call this pre-employment transition services, more specifically "counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs at institutions of higher education." That experience, in addition to having a relative who has mental illness, inspired me to become a vocational rehabilitation counselor. I find my work most rewarding when the consumers fully participate in their rehabilitation plans and obtain employment.

As an example of the many ways OVR can assist individuals with disabilities to achieve their employment goals, I am reminded of a particular person with an intellectual disability who was very shy and reached out to OVR to seek employment. This person had difficulty in completing a job application and comprehending conversations due to her low reading level. OVR provided work experience training in an office environment, adult readiness training, work apparel, and on-the-training in a retail store environment. Through the experience and encouragement, the person learned to be more open with other individuals and seek assistance when needed. Eventually, at the end of her OJT program, the consumer was hired by the company as a regular employee. Ultimately, our primary goal at OVR is to help people with disabilities in every way allowable in order that their disabilities do not hinder their employment goals and that they get hired. This was an example of a successful outcome ("Status 26: Closed Successfully Rehabilitated").

Additionally, we provide counseling, guidance, along with information and referral to consumers at Northern Marianas College or Northern Marianas Technical Institute to help them achieve employment. It might take longer for individuals with disabilities to complete their academic program and obtain college degrees, which makes counseling and guidance such an important service to ensure that they complete their degree program and continue to believe in themselves and believe that they can do anything. Providing information and referral is also important because consumers can use the information and seek proper assistance to achieve employment.

Consumers have rights and responsibilities when they engage with OVR. These rights include confidentiality of information—all the information provided to OVR is kept confidential. Personal information is used for the purpose directly connected with the provision of vocational rehabilitation services. All information is kept confidential in accordance with federal, state, and local laws.

These rights also include the right to contact and avail of the Client Assistance Program, otherwise known as CAP with the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. The Client Assistance Program provides assistance in informing and advising the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation consumer and applicants of all available benefits under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. CAP also seeks to assist OVR applicants and consumers, when requested, in their relationships with projects, programs, and facilities providing services to them under the Rehabilitation Act. This includes assistance in pursuing legal, administrative or other appropriate remedies to ensure the protection of the rights of consumers under this program.

Collaborating with employers by having meaningful conversation and providing information to create inclusive workplaces that benefit both workers with disabilities and their employers is another critical function of our counselors at OVR. I say meaningful conversation because I want employers to understand individuals with disabilities are people too. They want to be respected and given the opportunity to show their talents.

It is important to have assistive technology and accommodations in helping individuals with disabilities to be successful in the workplace. There are individuals with disabilities who would need a low assistive technology such as putting a stack of books to elevate the computer or high assistive technology such as motorized wheelchair. It is important for employers to be aware of job accommodations, which they can seek JAN (Job Accommodation Network), www.askjan.com for assistance.

Finally, as a long-time counselor, I would advise and highly recommend that individuals with disabilities who are looking to secure employment learn to self-advocate and utilize resources provided by OVR. I encourage individuals with disabilities to make connections with the Disability Network Partners in the community, which can also provide resources to achieve employment.

I encourage employers and community members to see individuals with disabilities as contributing members of society. Employers should see them for their abilities, not their disabilities.

For more on the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the services provided therein, contact us at (670) 322-6537/8 or online at www.ovrgov.net.

*Jane Tudela is the acting Case Services manager at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.*

# With MAGA-led chaos in Congress, Gen. Milley's warning rings loud and clear

**By TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

*Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the* Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

In recent days, the country has been subjected to a chilling preview of what MAGA rule would look like if Donald Trump returns to power, as America's allies looked on in shock while its enemies had good reason to cheer.

Having failed to shut down the government, but succeeded in axing Ukraine aid, a handful of Trump acolytes on Capitol Hill set out to cripple the U.S. government by other means. Led by MAGA Rep. Matt Gaetz, whose narcissism trumps Trump, these GOP hard-liners axed their own House speaker—ousting Kevin McCarthy with no sign they can find a successor. This would leave the government in chaos, with no means of passing a budget, which seems to be Gaetz's intent.

Trump, meanwhile, was denouncing the judge who ruled his companies had engaged in big-time fraud. To top that, the former president effectively accused the departing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, America's top military officer, Gen. Mark Milley, of treason, and posted on Truth Social that he deserved "DEATH." This outrageous threat from the likely GOP candidate for president forced Milley to take "appropriate measures" to protect himself and his family.

This MAGA madness illuminates the choice that confronts Republicans in Congress and in the voting booth: chaos or a functional government that might get legislation passed despite great differences in ideology. Does our country want a normal leader or a president who encourages violence against his opponents?

No one has clarified that choice better than Milley himself, in his parting address last week as his term ended. Add to that the angry words of Gen. John Kelly, Trump's longest-serving chief of staff, in a statement he made to CNN this week.

Let me start with the once taciturn Kelly, who confirmed on the record many damning statements he made earlier without attribution. (One can only wish he had spoken out much earlier, or resigned his post.)

He described Trump as "A person who has no idea what America stands for and has no idea what America is all about."

Kelly's barely contained rage was fueled, in part, by Trump's well-known contempt for wounded U.S. military warriors and war dead, whom he has repeatedly dismissed as "losers." Kelly confirmed that Trump had told him, on Memorial Day 2017, as they stood in Arlington National Cemetery among the graves of service members killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, "I don't get it. What was in it for them?"

That anger was raised to a peak by the ex-president's threat to Milley. Kelly derided Trump as "A person who cavalierly suggests that a selfless warrior who has served his county for 40 years in peacetime and war should lose his life for treason—in expectation that someone will take action."

"A person who admires autocrats and murderous dictators. A person that has nothing but contempt for our democratic institutions, our Constitution, and the rule of law.

"There is nothing more that can be said," Kelly concluded. "God help us."

Kelly's fury reflects a host of belated critiques by an astonishing number of former Trump officials such as former Defense Secretary Mark Esper, who told CNN in November, "He puts himself before the country."

Milley and Kelly had to cope with Trump's admiration for dictators like Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, who know that Trump clings to his repeatedly disproved belief that he alone can deal with them personally, without any background knowledge of the issues.

And as Milley laid out, the biggest domestic threat they faced was Trump's belief that the military is his personal tool. This dangerous fantasy flies in the face of the Constitution and spits on the principles by which the military abides.

Milley ran afoul of Trump's wrath when he apologized for being unwittingly dragooned, while in uniform, into a Trump political photo op in Lafayette Square, after the president had ordered a peaceful protest there dispersed with force. As the Pentagon's top officer, Milley faced his greatest challenge over Trump's refusal to admit he lost to Joe Biden and his efforts to overturn the election.

As Jeffrey Goldberg lays out in a must-read article in the November issue of the Atlantic, Milley rebuffed efforts by Trump loyalists to activate the obscure 1807 Insurrection Act against his opponents. He worried Trump might trigger a war—perhaps against Iran's nuclear facilities—in order to stay in office. This fear was shared by Esper, who tasked Milley to ensure his Chinese counterpart that the United States government was stable.

Yet most of all, Kelly and Milley worried about Trump's disdain for the military's duty to the Constitution, and his insistence that it served him.

In his parting speech, the departing chief laid out the reality that Trump still refuses to admit.

"We are unique among the world's militaries," Milley said. "We don't take an oath to a country. We don't take an oath to a tribe. We don't take an oath to a religion. We don't take an oath to a king, or a queen, or a tyrant or a dictator."

"And we don't take an oath to a wannabe dictator," he spat. "We take an oath to the Constitution, and we take an oath to the idea that is America, and we're willing to die to protect it."

The ouster of McCarthy engineered by a small MAGA cabal, the damning words from Trump's mouth—along with the chilling critiques from Milley and Kelly—confront GOP legislators with the choice they fear to make. Will they keep appeasing a "wannabe dictator" and his acolytes or fight for responsible leadership?

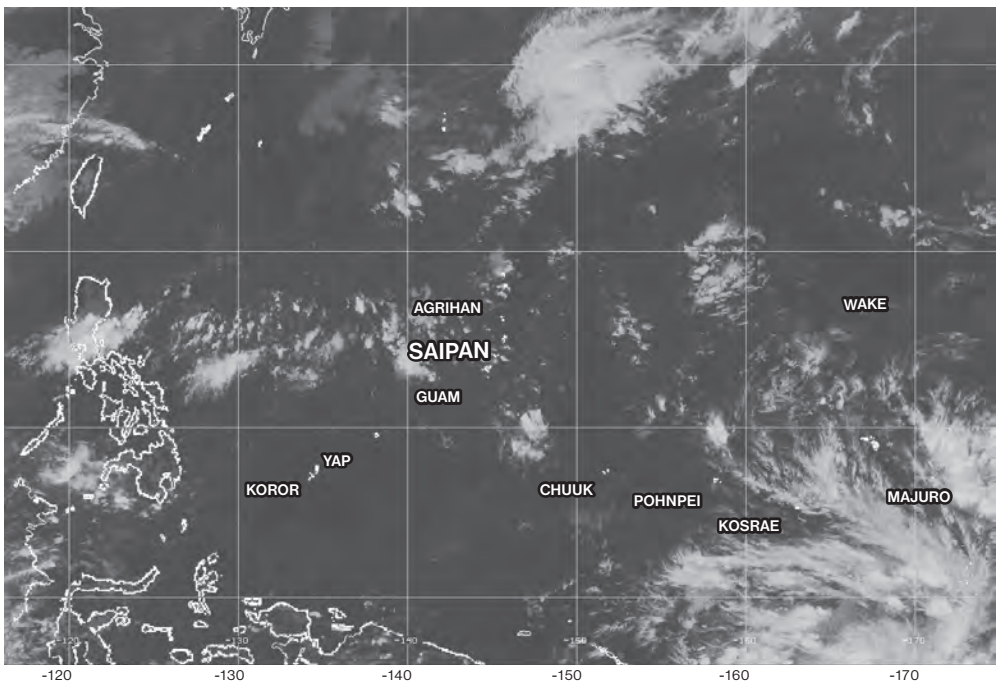
The MAGA-led chaos in Congress should (but probably won't) jolt them into making up their minds.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. | Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. | Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. |
| 87 / 77° | 87 / 79° | 87 / 79° | 87 / 79° | 87 / 79° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 7:37 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler radar shows high-end isolated to low-end scattered showers throughout the region. The winds have been light and variable over the night. Altimetry shows seas of 4 to 6 feet. The Tanapag buoy shows 6 to 7 feet and Ipan buoy shows 4 to 5 feet.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/*

| MICRONESIA | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Partly Sunny | 87° / 80° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 88° / 76° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 88° / 76° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 87° / 80° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:09 AM | 5:54 PM |
| Saturday | 6:09 AM | 5:53 PM |
| Sunday | 6:10 AM | 5:52 PM |
| Monday | 6:10 AM | 5:52 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:10 AM | 5:51 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 10:55 AM | 10:14 PM | - |
| Saturday | 11:55 AM | 11:16 PM | - |
| Sunday | 12:52 PM | - | - |
| Monday | - | 12:19 AM | 1:44 PM |
| Tuesday | - | 1:21 AM | 2:32 PM |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 63° / 54° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 59° / 34° |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Sunny | 84° / 75° |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | 87° / 76° |
| London | Showers | 63° / 54° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 89° / 64° |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | 91° / 79° |
| Melbourne | Showers | 59° / 48° |
| Miami | Thunderstorms | 85° / 80° |
| New York | Sunny | 66° / 52° |
| Osaka | Mostly Cloudy | 73° / 61° |
| Paris | Mostly Cloudy | 64° / 52° |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 66° / 48° |
| Rome | Showers | 73° / 55° |
| Salem | Rain | 71° / 63° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 77° / 50° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 61° / 39° |
| Tokyo | Mostly Cloudy | 72° / 63° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Cloudy | 69° / 51° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | FEET | |
|---|---|---|
| 4:59 AM | Low Tide | -0.24 |
| 12:34 PM | High Tide | 1.69 |
| 5:41 PM | Low Tide | 1.35 |
| 9:57 PM | High Tide | 1.63 |

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2023

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily |

**SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA824 | 7:25AM | 9:55AM | 1, 3, 5 |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily |
| UA193 | 6:55PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:20PM | 9:10PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/703 | 4:20AM | 10:35PM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3403/2305 | 4:45AM | 10:20PM | Daily |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau |

**SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 7:00AM | Daily |
| OZ626 | 4:20AM | 7:55AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:45AM | 8:35AM | Daily |
| 7C3405 | 4:10PM | 7:45PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:20AM | 6:30AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:50AM | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA825 | 9:25PM | 1:50AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:10AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| PR110 | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | Daily |
| UA184 | 11:50PM | 5:50AM+1 | 2, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ702/625 | 12:05PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:50AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:50AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| 7C2306/3406 | 11:10PM | 3:10PM+1 | Daily |
| UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:50AM+1 | 2, 5 via Guam |

**INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 9:30AM | 3:10PM | Daily |
| TW307 | 8:30PM | 2:15AM+1 | Daily |
| OZ625 | 9:25PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10PM | 3:40AM+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:35PM | 2:20AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| LIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

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# USCG, Palau strengthen maritime partnership for regional stability

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—Following the signing of an expanded bilateral law enforcement agreement in August, during the Joint Heads of Pacific Security conference, representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Republic of Palau embarked on a series of meetings and initiatives to advance maritime partnership and promote regional stability Oct. 6-13, 2023.

"Our work with Palau goes beyond signatures on an agreement; it's about the actions we take together. It's about standing side by side to safeguard our shared maritime environment and ensure regional security," said Capt. Nicholas Simmons, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

In a strategic effort to deepen collaboration and build stronger bonds, members of U.S. Coast Guard District 14 Legal and Intel, along with members of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam's Intel and Compact of Free Association departments, conducted an Enhanced Shiprider Tabletop Exercise in Palau with members of the government and local enforcement agencies. This tabletop exercise served as a platform for key stakeholders from both sides to lay the groundwork for future endeavors. They also met with the governor of the northernmost state, Ngaraard, Governor Sharp Sakuma, and the president of Palau Community College, Dr. Patrick Tellei.

**Near future initiatives include:**

■ Palau Search and Rescue Exercise—Set to take place in early 2024, demonstrating our joint commitment to the safety of life at sea.

■ Enacting the Enhanced Agreement—U.S. Coast Guard asset crews in the region will seek to employ the enhanced bilateral agreement.

■ Ngaraard State Projects—Focusing on improving maritime safety by developing a better marking system for vessel traffic in Palauan waters.

■ Palau Community College—U.S. Coast Guard Academy presentation aimed at recruiting and fostering education among young talent while building skills for local residents to bring back to Palau.

The U.S. Coast Guard will also participate in the Palau Joint Committee Meeting scheduled for Nov. 15-17 in Palau, where, in addition to other items, discussions will consider the practical implementation of U.S. Coast Guard support to Palauan partners.

The Republic of Palau, known for its rich culture and stringent marine conservation laws, is committed to protecting its marine environment. With this partnership, the U.S. aims to support Palau's efforts while also enhancing regional security.

**About the agreement**

The enhanced bilateral agreement empowers the U.S. Coast Guard to enforce regulations in Palau's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) without a Palauan officer present. It represents a significant step forward in our shared commitment to regional maritime security. However,

*See USCG on Page 15*

## DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

# NOTICE OF APPLICATION

**As of October 20, 2023**

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

| NO. | APPLICANT | DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED | APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION | LOCATION | TYPE | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Canaan Realty, LLC | 09/18/2023 SMS-2023-102 | New Construction of a 42 Unit Housing | As Lito, Saipan | Major Siting | Application Tabled* 10/17/2023 |
| 2. | Captain Nite's Boat Charter, LLC | 10/13/2023 SLR-2024-001 | Commercial Snorkeling Activities & Banana Boat (Towed Flotation) Operations | Garapan & Managaha, Saipan | Lagoon & Reef | Certified Complete* 10/17/2023 Approved* 10/18/2023 |
| 3. | Joaquin M. Manglona | 10/18/2023 SPlm-2024-002 | Drydock – Tenshou II | Lowerbase, Saipan | Ports & Industrial | Application Under Review* |

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
18th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE SESSION
Monday, October 23, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
Paluma Room, Aqua Resort Club
Saipan, MP 96950

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## AGENDA[1]

**I. Preliminary**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

**II. Public Comments[2]**

**III. New Business**
1. Conduct the Interviews for the Commissioner of Education JVA

**IV. Executive Session[3]**
1. Personnel
2. Other matters

**V. Adjournment**

[1]Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/91315187833?pwd=M-jhOU0tRK2VZcklhMjN6eTMvVWw1Zz09
Meeting ID: 913 1518 7833
Passcode: 740557

[2]Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

[3]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

# INVITATION FOR BID

**AMENDED**

## PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-24

**SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2023: 2:00 P.M.**

**"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FOUR (4) BRAND NEW VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"**

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FOUR (04) BRAND NEW VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT **(IFB-001-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2023. **A 10% BID BOND OR CASHEIR'S CHECK PAYABLE TO CPA SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS.** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

**WENDI PRATER** DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2023
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

# INVITATION FOR BID

**AMENDED**

## PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-24

**SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2023: 2:00 P.M.**

**"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW HEAVY DUTY TRUCK FOR SAIPAN SEAPORT POLICE"**

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW HEAVY DUTY TRUCK FOR SAIPAN SEAPORT POLICE **(IFB-002-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2023. **A 10% BID BOND/GUARANTY OR CASHIER'S CHECK PAYABLE TO CPA SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS.** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

**WENDI PRATER** DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2023
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

# INVITATION FOR BID

**AMENDED**

## PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-24

**SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2023: 2:00 P.M.**

**"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THREE (3) BRAND NEW UTILITY VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"**

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF THREE (03) BRAND NEW UTILITY VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT **(IFB-003-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR **BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2023. A 10% BID BOND/GUARANTY OR CASHIER'S CHECK PAYABLE TO CPA SHALL BE SUBMITTED** WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

**WENDI PRATER** DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2023
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

USCG

Representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Republic of Palau conduct a tabletop exercise discussion and forms review for enacting the enhanced bilateral agreement in Palau in early October 2023. Following the signing of an expanded bilateral law enforcement agreement in August, during the Joint Heads of Pacific Security conference, representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Republic of Palau embarked on a series of meetings and initiatives to advance maritime partnership and promote regional stability.

USCG

Lt. Anna Vaccaro, Dr. Patrick Tellei, and Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar stand for a photo during a visit to Palau Community College in Palau in October 2023.

USCG

Lt. Anna Vaccaro and Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar stand for a photo with Gov. Sharp Sakuma, the Ngaraard State officer, Maj. Kittka, and Mr. Olkerill (kneeling) during a visit to Ngaraard in Palau in October 2023.

USCG

Gov. Sharp Sakuma explains concerns with a channel entrance to Lt. Anna Vaccaro during a Ngaraard site visit in Palau on Oct. 13, 2023.

# USCG

*From page 14*

it is essential to clarify that this agreement does not replace joint work with physical shipriders; instead, it augments enforcement capabilities.

This collaborative bilateral effort follows a similar agreement signed with the Federated States of Micronesia in October 2022. It is part of a broader strategy to strengthen regional security, including a bilateral defense agreement and bilateral maritime law enforcement with Papua New Guinea in May 2023, which enabled U.S. Coast Guard boarding officers alongside their Papua New Guinea counterparts to conduct boardings in PNG's EEZ for the first time in over ten days at sea in August and September yielding four bilateral boardings, six observation reports, the identification of a vessel monitoring system violation and subsequent fine to the vessel operator by the PNG National Fisheries Authority.

**Operation Blue Pacific**

Through Operation Blue Pacific and Operation Rematau, led by U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, the U.S. actively exercises maritime law enforcement agreements with Pacific Island Countries. These agreements reinforce maritime law enforcement operations, bolster maritime domain awareness, and contribute to security, safety, sovereignty, and economic prosperity throughout Oceania.

The U.S. Coast Guard's shiprider program is a cornerstone of these efforts, aligning with the Pacific Partnership Strategy and embodying our commitment to maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania.

"With this historic agreement and the ongoing collaboration, the U.S. reaffirms its presence in the Pacific, contributing to regional stability, security, and resilience. Collaborating with partners like Palau amplifies our ability to protect resources and maintain a free and open Blue Pacific for all nations that uphold the rule of law," said Simmons.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam comprises more than 350 dedicated members based in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. We are committed to maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania, operating under the U.S. Coast Guard 14th District umbrella, which oversees Central and Western Pacific operations. ***(USCG)***

# FROM RIDGE TO REEF

**A Series of Articles Written by the 2023 DCRM Summer Interns**

Issue No. 8 of 8

***www.dcrm.gov.mp***

## *Helping Our Island Flourish*

**TAMISHA SABLAN**

As the granddaughter of a marine biologist, I come from a family who taught me the importance and beauty of our environment from a young age. It always made me set on working in the environmental field. Once I heard about the Division of Coastal Resources Management's (DCRM) Summer Internship Program, I jumped straight on the opportunity. I was hoping it would give me a better insight into the environmental field and it did just that and more. This summer, I had the opportunity to intern under DCRM's Shoreline Monitoring Program. In addition to conducting shoreline monitoring, I was given the chance to see the coral nursery, learn more about mangroves, see the laboratory in full action, and many more great experiences.

As a shoreline intern, I saw firsthand how our beautiful island is slowly losing its shoreline due to erosion, climate change, and human activity. My mentor, Mary Fem Urena, my fellow shoreline interns, Madison Sablan and Samantha Liske-Clark, and myself have been making our way from the south to the north beaches of Saipan, and even Mañagaha, measuring the shoreline change. It wasn't always easy. Many factors came into play such as the weather, transportation, participation, etc., but in the end, we managed.

We used two types of measuring equipment while conducting shoreline monitoring. The first one is called the Berger level. "The Berger levels are the... the transit-level. This instrument is a combination instrument. The telescope turns not only sideways, but also up and down. This valuable feature enables you to determine if a wall is perfectly plumb, to run straight lines, and to measure vertical angles." (Berger-Engineering Supply). The second one is called the Total Station Method. It "measures angles and distances electronically and processes trigonometrically to give us, at a minimum, position coordinates in space" (leica-geosystems.com). AFter we measured all our headstakes at each beach, we would enter the collected data into a spreadsheet, then plotted them into a graph. The graph will show which areas are either losing or gaining sand.

Shoreline erosion is critical and should be widely known in our islands. Being a DCRM intern has opened my eyes to many environmental issues. I hope my article reaches the general population and intrigues them to learn more and enter the environmental field so we can help our islands flourish together.

# Business

## Surfrider Hotel honored with 2023 KAYAK Travel Award

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Surfrider Resort Hotel general manager Keith Ahn, center, and his award-winning team received the prestigious 2023 KAYAK Travel Award by being ranked in the Top 3% of properties on the renowned travel search platform, KAYAK, based on outstanding reviews from travelers.

Surfrider Resort Hotel, a premier destination in the heart of Northern Mariana Islands, has been recognized with the prestigious 2023 KAYAK Travel Award.

The resort achieved this remarkable milestone by being ranked in the top 3% of properties worldwide on the renowned travel search platform, KAYAK, based on outstanding reviews from travelers.

This accolade is a testament to Surfrider Resort Hotel's unwavering commitment to providing exceptional hospitality and unparalleled guest experiences. The award reinforces the resort's position as a leading choice for travelers seeking an unforgettable stay in the Northern Mariana Islands.

KAYAK is one of the world's leading travel search engines, dedicated to simplifying the travel planning process for millions of users. By comparing hundreds of travel sites at once, KAYAK allows travelers to find the perfect flight, hotel, car rental, or vacation package. The platform's innovative technology and comprehensive travel insights empower travelers to make confident decisions.

Surfrider Resort Hotel general manager Keith Ahn said this recognition underscores his team's dedication to delivering exceptional service and creating memorable moments for their guests.

"We are deeply honored to receive the 2023 KAYAK Travel Award," said Ahn. "I am immensely proud of our team whose hard work and commitment have made this achievement possible. We look forward to continuing to exceed the expectations of our guests."

Surfrider Resort Hotel is Saipan's premier beach resort hotel, ideally located near the airport and seconds from the most treasured beaches on island. Surfrider offers stylish, well-appointed rooms, with modern amenities and offers an affordable option for those seeking relaxation, adventure or need a comfortable place to stay for business. For more information or to book your next reservation, visit www.saipansurfriderhotel.com or call (670) 235-7873. ***(PR)***

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### US to invest $3.5B to strengthen electric grid, bolster resilience

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Biden administration on Wednesday announced $3.5 billion for 58 projects across the country to strengthen electric grid resilience as extreme weather events such as the deadly Maui and California wildfires continue to strain the nation's aging transmission systems. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said it was the largest federal investment ever in grid infrastructure, supporting projects that will harden electric systems and improve energy reliability and affordability. The federal spending, combined with money promised by private partners, could result in up to $8 billion in investments nationally to upgrade the grid, Granholm said. "The grid, as it currently sits, is not equipped to handle all the new demand" and withstand natural disasters and extreme weather worsened by climate change, Granholm said at a news conference. "We need it to be bigger, we need it to be stronger, we need it to be smarter" to bring a range of renewable energy projects online and meet the Biden administration's goal of reaching 100% clean electricity by 2035, she said.

### Starbucks, Workers United union sue each other over pro-Palestinian social media post

Starbucks and the union organizing its workers sued each other Wednesday in a standoff sparked by a social media post over the Israel-Hamas war. Starbucks sued Workers United in federal court in Iowa Wednesday, saying a pro-Palestinian social media post from a union account early in the Israel-Hamas war angered hundreds of customers and damaged its reputation. Starbucks is suing for trademark infringement, demanding that Workers United stop using the name "Starbucks Workers United" for the group that is organizing the coffee company's workers. Starbucks also wants the group to stop using a circular green logo that resembles Starbucks' logo. Workers United responded with its own filing, asking a federal court in Pennsylvania to rule that it can continue to use Starbucks' name and a similar logo. Workers United also said Starbucks defamed the union by implying that it supports terrorism and violence. On Oct. 9, two days after Hamas militants rampaged across communities in southern Israel, Starbucks Workers United posted "Solidarity with Palestine!" on X, formerly known as Twitter. Workers United—a Philadelphia-based affiliate of the Service Employees International Union—said in its lawsuit that workers put up the tweet without the authorization of union leaders. The post was up for about 40 minutes before it was deleted. ***(AP)***

# Nation

MOTHER SAYS

## Confession in Holloway case provides long-sought answers

AP

Beth Holloway speaks to media after the appearance of Joran van der Sloot outside the Hugo L. Black Federal Courthouse Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, in Birmingham, Ala.

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** (AP)—Beth Holloway was after one thing for 18 years: answers about what happened to her missing daughter.

She got them Wednesday when Joran van der Sloot, long considered the chief suspect in her daughter's 2005 disappearance in Aruba, admitted in submitted court filings to bludgeoning Natalee Holloway to death on a beach and dragging her body out to sea.

Van der Sloot, 36, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to federal charges of attempting to extort money from Beth Holloway in 2010 in exchange for information about the location of her daughter's body. The plea agreement included an unusual provision for van der Sloot to "provide all information and evidence" about what happened to Natalee Holloway and to let her family hear him in "real time" give his account to federal investigators.

Beth Holloway said in an interview with The Associated Press that the family made the decision to allow the plea agreement to "finally get the answers we've been searching for for all these years."

Natalee Holloway, 18, went missing during a high school graduation trip to Aruba with classmates. She was last seen May 30, 2005, leaving a bar with van der Sloot, a Dutch citizen and student at an international school on the Caribbean island where he grew up.

Natalee Holloway's disappearance quickly became an international sensation, filling evening newscasts with live reports from the island and photos of her smiling cherubic face. Her disappearance also spawned countless books, podcasts and movies.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Natalee Holloway's parents listened and watched several weeks ago as van der Sloot, under questioning from his own attorney, described what happened on the beach. Prosecutors filed excerpts of the conversation with the court.

He said Natalee Holloway was physically fighting his sexual advances and that he kicked her "extremely hard" in the face while she was still lying down. Van der Sloot said the teen was already unconscious, or even dead, when he picked up a nearby cinderblock and brought it down on her face.

## House speaker race hits impasse as defeated Jordan wants to try again

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Refusing to drop out, Republican Rep. Jim Jordan has brought the House speaker's race to a stalemate—the hard-fighting ally of Donald Trump has been unable to win the gavel but he and his far-right allies won't step aside for a more viable GOP nominee.

The House is tentatively set to convene sometime Thursday afternoon for Jordan to try again.

But there's a sinking realization that the House could remain endlessly stuck, out of service and without a leader for the foreseeable future as the Republican majority spirals deeper into dysfunction. The impasse has left some Republican lawmakers settling in for a protracted stretch without a House speaker.

"I think clearly Nov. 17 is a real date," said Rep. Kevin Hern, R-Okla., who leads a large conservative caucus, referring to the next deadline for Congress to approve funding or risk a federal government shutdown.

Next steps were highly uncertain as angry, frustrated Republicans looked at other options. A bipartisan group of lawmakers floated an extraordinary plan—to give the interim speaker pro tempore, Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., more power to reopen the immobilized House and temporarily conduct routine business. But that seems doubtful, for now.

What was clear was that Jordan's path to become House speaker was almost certainly lost.

On Wednesday, Jordan failed in a crucial second ballot, opposed by 22 Republicans, two more than he lost in first-round voting the day before. Many view the Ohio congressman as too extreme for a central seat of U.S. power and resented the harassing hardball tactics from Jordan's allies for their votes. One lawmaker said they had received death threats.

"We'll keep talking to members, keep working on it," Jordan, a founding member of the hard-right Freedom Caucus, said after the vote.

The House came to another abrupt standstill, 16 days now since the sudden ouster of Kevin McCarthy without a speaker—a position of power second in line to the presidency.

# Asia

AFTER BLAST KILLS HUNDREDS AT HOSPITAL

## Hamas likely used N. Korean weapons in attack on Israel

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—Hamas fighters likely fired North Korean weapons during their Oct. 7 assault on Israel, a militant video and weapons seized by Israel show, despite Pyongyang's denials that it sells arms to the militant group.

The video was analyzed by two experts on North Korean arms. Along with an Associated Press analysis of weapons captured on the battlefield and South Korean military intelligence, the video indicates that Hamas used the F-7 rocket-propelled grenade, a shoulder-fired weapon that fighters typically use against armored vehicles.

The evidence shines a light on the murky world of the illicit arms shipments that sanction-battered North Korea uses as a way to fund its arms programs.

Rocket-propelled grenade launchers fire a single warhead and can be quickly reloaded, making them valuable weapons for guerrilla forces in running skirmishes with heavy vehicles. The F-7 has been documented in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, said N.R. Jenzen-Jones, a weapons expert who works as the director of the consultancy Armament Research Services.

"North Korea has long supported Palestinian militant groups, and North Korean arms have previously been documented amongst interdicted supplies," Jenzen-Jones told The Associated Press.

Hamas has published images of their training that show fighters with a weapon with a rocket-propelled grenade with a distinctive red stripe across its warhead, and other design elements matching the F-7, said Matt Schroeder, a senior researcher with Small Arms Survey who wrote a guide to Pyongyang's light weapons.

"It is not a surprise to see North Korean weapons with Hamas," Schroeder said.

The North Korean F-7 resembles the more widely distributed Soviet-era RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenade, with a few noticeable differences.

A militant video examined by the AP shows one fighter carrying the F-7. Weapons seized by the Israeli military and shown to journalists also included that red stripe and other design elements matching the F-7.

In a background briefing with journalists Tuesday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff specifically identified the F-7 as one of the North Korean weapons it believed Hamas used in the attack. The Israeli military declined to answer questions from the AP about the origin and the manufacturer of those rocket-propelled grenades, saying the ongoing war with Hamas prevented it from responding.

## World Food Program appeals for $19M to provide emergency food in Afghanistan

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—The United Nations' World Food Program on Wednesday appealed for $19 million to provide emergency assistance to tens of thousands of people affected by a series of devastating earthquakes and aftershocks that has rocked western Afghanistan.

Ana Maria Salhuana, deputy country director of the World Food Program in Afghanistan, said it was helping survivors but it urgently needed more funding because "we are having to take this food from an already severely underfunded program."

The group said it is working to provide emergency food assistance to 100,000 people in the region.

"Disasters like these earthquakes pound communities who are already barely able to feed themselves back into utter destitution," the WFP said.

A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck part of western Afghanistan on Sunday, after thousands of people died and entire villages were flattened by major quakes a week earlier. It was the fourth quake the U.S. Geological Survey has measured at 6.3 magnitude in the same area in just over a week.

The initial earthquakes on Oct. 7 flattened whole villages in Herat province and were among the most destructive quakes in the country's recent history.

The WFP said staffers responded within hours of the first earthquakes, distributing fortified biscuits, pulses and other food items to affected families in destroyed villages.

"An estimated 25,000 buildings have been destroyed," the group said a statement. "The survivors are currently sleeping in tents next to the rubble of their homes, desperate and afraid of further earthquakes and aftershocks."

## Putin, Xi meet in Beijing and call for close policy coordination

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—The leaders of Russia and China met Wednesday in Beijing and called for close foreign policy coordination, as concerns grow about possible conflicts with the West over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and Beijing's rising threats against Taiwan.

At their morning meeting, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin discussed trade and the 10th anniversary of Xi's trademark Belt and Road Initiative that has built highways, ports and power plants across Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere.

The policy has left many states deep in debt to Chinese banks, and the attempt to pump new life into it comes at a time when China's own economy has slowed considerably due to huge overinvestment in real estate.

"In the current difficult conditions, close foreign policy coordination is especially required," Putin said in his opening remarks.

"So, in terms of bilateral relations, we are moving forward very confidently," he said, noting that bilateral trade was on track to surpass a record $200 billion this year.

China is a key customer for Russian oil and gas, providing Moscow with an economic lifeline in the face of punishing Western sanctions imposed over its campaign against Ukraine.

Just weeks before Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February, Putin met with Xi in Beijing and the sides signed an agreement pledging a "no-limits" relationship. Beijing's attempts to present itself as a neutral peace broker in Russia's war on Ukraine have been widely dismissed by the international community.

China, meanwhile, has increased military harassment of self-ruled Taiwan, the island democracy it claims as its own to be united by force if necessary.

# World

## Hamas, Israel trade blame as rage spreads in region

AP

Palestinians rescue a child from under the rubble after Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023.

**KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip** (AP)—Israel said Wednesday that it will allow Egypt to deliver limited humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. The first crack in a punishing 10-day siege on the territory came one day after a blast at a hospital killed hundreds and put immense strain on Gaza's struggling medical system.

The announcement to allow water, food and other supplies happened as fury over the blast at Gaza City's al-Ahli Hospital spread across the Middle East, and as U.S. President Joe Biden visited Israel in hopes of preventing a wider conflict in the region.

There were conflicting claims of who was behind the explosion on Tuesday night, but protests flared quickly as many Arab leaders said Israel was responsible. Hamas officials in Gaza blamed an Israeli airstrike, saying hundreds were killed. Israel denied it was involved and released a flurry of video, audio and other information that it said showed the blast was instead due to a rocket misfire by Islamic Jihad, another militant group operating in Gaza. Islamic Jihad dismissed that claim.

The Associated Press has not independently verified any of the claims or evidence.

Israel shut off all supplies to Gaza soon after Hamas militants rampaged across communities in southern Israel on Oct. 7. As supplies run out, many families in Gaza have cut down to one meal a day and have been left to drink dirty water.

The bloody devastation at al-Ahli threw the siege's impact into sharp relief. Video from the scene showed the hospital grounds strewn with torn bodies, many of them young children. Hundreds of wounded were rushed to Gaza City's main hospital where doctors, already facing critical supply shortages, were sometimes forced to perform surgery on the floors, often without anesthesia.

## Bolsonaro should be charged with attempting to stage coup

**RIO DE JANEIRO** (AP)—A Brazilian congressional panel on Wednesday accused former President Jair Bolsonaro of instigating the country's Jan. 8 riots and recommended that he be charged with attempting to stage a coup.

An inquiry panel of senators and representatives mostly allied with the current leftist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva —who narrowly defeated Bolsonaro in last fall's election—voted 20-11 to adopt the damning report drafted by Sen. Eliziane Gama.

The move was largely symbolic for Bolsonaro because it amounts to a recommendation for police and prosecutors to investigate, and federal law enforcement officials separately have already been investigating his possible role in inciting the Jan. 8 uprising.

Bolsonaro has denied involvement in the rioting, which took place more than a week after the right-wing leader had quietly left the country to stay in Florida while refusing to attend Lula's inauguration.

"It's completely biased," Bolsonaro said Wednesday of the inquiry, in comments to reporters. "It's an absurdity."

One week after Lula took office, thousands of Bolsonaro supporters stormed Congress, the Supreme Court and presidential palace, refusing to accept his election defeat. They bypassed security barricades, climbed on roofs, smashed windows and invaded the public buildings.

Many observers at the time speculated that the riot was a coordinated effort to oust Lula from office, and could not have occurred without the complicity of some of the military and police. Gama's report jibed with those claims, and went a step further in saying they were orchestrated by Bolsonaro.

The report recommends that Bolsonaro be charged on a total of four counts, including attempting to overthrow a legitimately constituted government and attempting to overthrow democratic rule. It also includes a slew of other charges against dozens of Bolsonaro allies, including former ministers, top military brass and police officers.

Those include Gen. Braga Netto, who served as Bolsonaro's defense minister and then was his running mate; Anderson Torres, ex-justice minister and secretary of public security in Brasilia; former institutional security minister Gen. Augusto Heleno; former Chief of Staff Gen. Luiz Eduardo Ramos; and the head of Brazil's defense, navy and armed forces.

# Off The Wall

DON'T MESS WITH THIS MAMA BEAR

## Grazer handily wins the Fat Bear Contest at Alaska park

AP

In this photo provided by the National Park Service is Grazer, the winner of the 2023 Fat Bear Contest, at Katmai National Park, Alaska on Sept. 14, 2023.

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** (AP)—When it comes to packing on the pounds to survive an Alaska winter, this year's undisputed champ is Grazer.

Grazer, also known as Bear 128 to the fans of Fat Bear Week at Alaska's Katmai National Park and Preserve, won this year's contest, handily defeating Chunk 108,321 to 23,134 in the finals.

The annual contest, which this year drew more than 1.3 million votes from dedicated fans watching the bears live at explore.org, is way to celebrate the resiliency of the brown bears that live on the preserve on the Alaska Peninsula, which extends from the state's southwest corner toward the Aleutian Islands.

Viewers of Alaska's most-watched popularity contest are glued to computer screens all summer long to see which bears are stocking up the most on salmon. They then vote in tournament style brackets over the course of a week, advancing bears to the next round until a champion is crowned. Grazer took the title Tuesday.

According to Grazer's biography on the Katmai website, the large adult female is often one of the fattest bears to collect salmon on Brooks River inside Katmai. Park officials call her "one of the best anglers" in the park, fishing day or night from many different parts of the river, even chasing down fleeing salmon.

Grazer is one of an estimated 2,200 brown bears that call Katmai home.

A true mama bear, she's known to attack larger bears, even adult males, to ensure her cubs are safe. She's used her skills to successfully raise two litters of cubs.

This year's contest was in peril just weeks ago. Had Congress not come to a last-minute deal to avoid a government shutdown at the end of September, Fat Bear Week would have been postponed since park employees would not have been allowed to count the votes.

## US Customs execs seize giraffe feces from a woman at Minnesota airport

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Federal customs agents poohpoohed the plans of an Iowa woman who wanted to make jewelry from giraffe feces she picked up on a trip to Kenya and brought back to the U.S. in her luggage.

The woman declared the small box of feces when she was selected to have her belongings inspected upon arriving at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Airport on Sept. 29, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The woman, who was not identified, told officials she planned to use the waste to make a necklace, as she had done in the past with moose poop.

Giraffe poop can be brought back to the U.S. with the proper permits and inspections, according to Minnesota Public Radio. The station reported that the woman won't face sanctions because she declared the feces and gave it to Customs.

The agency's agriculture specialists destroyed the giraffe poop.

"There is a real danger with bringing fecal matter into the U.S.," Customs and Border Protection's Chicago field Director LaFonda D. Sutton-Burke said in a statement. "If this person had entered the U.S. and had not declared these items, there is high possibility a person could have contracted a disease from this jewelry and developed serious health issues."

African swine fever, classical swine fever, Newcastle disease, foot-and-mouth disease and swine vesicular disease are among ailments in Kenya that Customs cited as risks.

## Police capture a cheeky monkey that escaped

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Momo the monkey's taste of freedom is over.

The primate spurred an hourslong search on Indianapolis' east side after he escaped Wednesday evening from his owner's property. But the male patas monkey was finally captured safely Thursday morning, police said.

Momo was captured by the brother of the monkey's owner after police tracked the primate to the bathroom of a house under construction, said Lt. William Carter of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

"That was more than enough monkey business for us," the department said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, to announce Momo's capture.

Carter said police were called to the city's east side about 6 p.m. Wednesday on a report of "an aggressive animal" that turned out to be the monkey on the run.

After his capture, Momo was taken into the care of Indianapolis' Animal Care Services, which turned him over to staff at the Indianapolis Zoo for now, said Katie Trennepohl, deputy director of Indianapolis Animal Care Services.

# Science & Technology

## New genetic study looks closer at people with African ancestry

By LAURA UNGAR
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Scientists are setting out to collect genetic material from 500,000 people of African ancestry to create what they believe will be the world's largest database of genomic information from the population.

The hope is to build a new "reference genome"—a template to compare to full sets of DNA from individuals—and better understand genetic variants that affect Black people. It could eventually translate into new medicines and diagnostic tests—and help reduce health disparities.

The initiative was launched Wednesday by Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, as well as Regeneron Genetics Center, AstraZeneca, Novo Nordisk and Roche. The pharmaceutical companies are providing the funding, while the data will be managed by a nonprofit started by Meharry, called the Diaspora Human Genomics Institute.

Organizers said there's a clear need for the project, pointing to research showing that less than 2% of genetic information being studied today comes from people of African ancestry.

"We are going to bridge that gap, and this is just the beginning," said Anil Shanker, senior vice president for research and innovation at Meharry.

Scientists have long known that the reference they compare to individual genomes has serious limits because it mostly relies on genetic material from one man and doesn't reflect the spectrum of human diversity.

Although any two people's genomes—that is, a set of instructions to build and sustain a human being—are more than 99% identical, scientists say they want to understand the differences.

## NASA spacecraft launched to rare metal asteroid

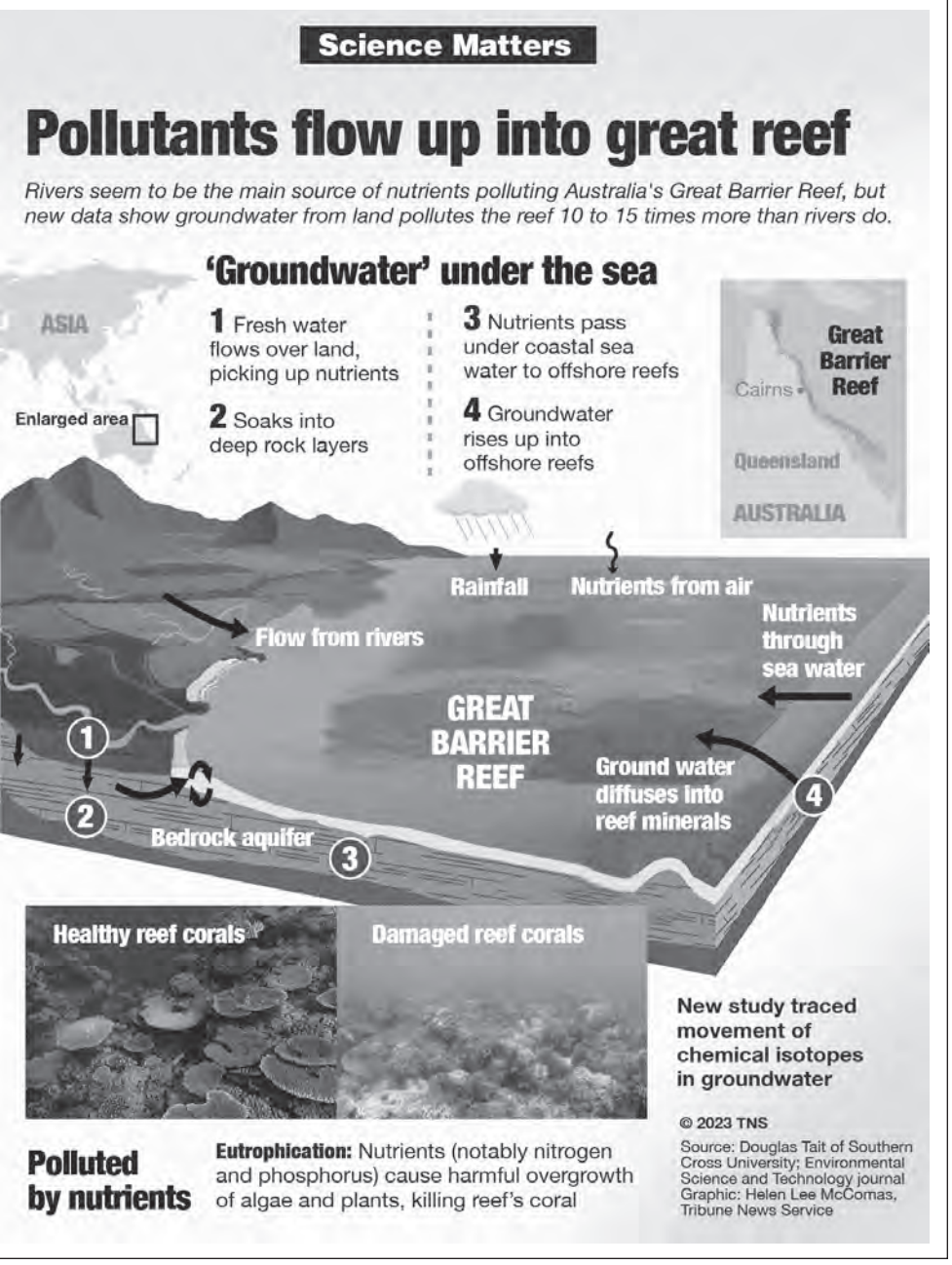
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** (AP)—NASA's Psyche spacecraft rocketed away Friday on a six-year journey to a rare metal-covered asteroid.

Most asteroids tend to be rocky or icy, and this is the first exploration of a metal world. Scientists believe it may be the battered remains of an early planet's core, and could shed light on the inaccessible centers of Earth and other rocky planets.

SpaceX launched the spacecraft into an overcast midmorning sky from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Named for the asteroid it's chasing, Psyche should reach the huge, potato-shaped object in 2029.

"It's so thrilling," said Laurie Leshin, director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Added Arizona State University's Jim Bell, part of the Psyche team: "What a great ride so far."

An hour later, the spacecraft separated successfully from the rocket's upper stage and floated away, drawing applause from ground controllers.


Science Matters
Pollutants flow up into great reef
Rivers seem to be the main source of nutrients polluting Australia's Great Barrier Reef, but new data show groundwater from land pollutes the reef 10 to 15 times more than rivers do.
'Groundwater' under the sea
ASIA
Enlarged area
1 Fresh water flows over land, picking up nutrients
2 Soaks into deep rock layers
3 Nutrients pass under coastal sea water to offshore reefs
4 Groundwater rises up into offshore reefs
Great Barrier Reef
Cairns
Queensland
AUSTRALIA
Rainfall
Nutrients from air
Flow from rivers
Nutrients through sea water
GREAT BARRIER REEF
Ground water diffuses into reef minerals
Bedrock aquifer
Healthy reef corals
Damaged reef corals
New study traced movement of chemical isotopes in groundwater
© 2023 TNS
Source: Douglas Tait of Southern Cross University; Environmental Science and Technology journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
Polluted by nutrients
Eutrophication: Nutrients (notably nitrogen and phosphorus) cause harmful overgrowth of algae and plants, killing reef's coral

# Life & Style

## Tupac killing suspect represented by well-known lawyer

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—The Southern California street gang leader charged in the fatal shooting of Tupac Shakur in 1996 in Las Vegas will make a court appearance Thursday with a lawyer from one of the city's best-known political families, one that has represented mobsters, athletes and other famous clients.

Attorney Ross Goodman told The Associated Press Wednesday he'll appear in Duane "Keffe D" Davis' defense against accusations that Davis orchestrated the drive-by killing of the rap music icon. Davis won't immediately enter a plea, Goodman said, he'll seek another two weeks to confirm that he'll be hired for Davis' case.

Davis, 60, originally from Compton, California, was arrested Sept. 29 outside his home in suburban Henderson. He told a police officer wearing a body camera that he moved there in January because his wife was involved in opening grocery stores in Nevada.

Edi Faal, Davis' longtime personal lawyer in Los Angeles, told AP after Davis' first court appearance on Oct. 4 that he was helping Davis find a defense attorney in Nevada. Faal on Wednesday confirmed Goodman's involvement.

Goodman is a son of former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and current Mayor Carolyn Goodman. As a lawyer for more than two decades, he has handled a range of high-profile cases including a plea deal in August with which former Las Vegas Raiders cornerback Damon Arnette resolved a felony gun charge by pleading guilty to two misdemeanors.

His father, Oscar Goodman, is a lawyer who represented mob figures including the ill-fated Anthony "Tony the Ant" Spilotro before serving three terms as mayor. He was famous for making public appearances with a martini in hand and a showgirl on each arm.

Spilotro was the basis for a character in the 1995 film "Casino." He fought allegations of skimming from resort receipts and led a legendary break-in ring dubbed the "Hole in the Wall Gang" before disappearing in June 1986 with his brother, Michael Spilotro. Their bodies were found buried in an Indiana cornfield. A reputed Chicago mob boss was convicted in 2007 of both murders.

Ross Goodman also represented Chris Lammons, a cornerback for the Indianapolis Colts, when he and New Orleans Saints running back Alvin Kamara pleaded guilty in July to misdemeanors to resolve a felony battery case stemming from a man's beating at a Las Vegas nightclub the weekend before the 2022 NFL Pro Bowl.

In July, a police raid at Davis' home drew renewed interest to Shakur's unsolved murder, one of hip-hop music's enduring mysteries. Davis' indictment made him the first person ever arrested in Shakur's death and has raised questions about the unsolved killing in March 1997 in Los Angeles of Notorious B.I.G. or "Biggie Smalls," a rival rapper whose legal name is Christopher Wallace.

Davis denied involvement in that killing, but in recent years has publicly described his role in Shakur's death, including in interviews and a 2019 tell-all memoir that described his life as a leader of a Crips gang sect in Compton. Davis is the only living person among four men who were in the car from which shots were fired at Shakur and rap music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight.

Shakur died a week later at age 25. Knight was wounded but survived. Now 58, he is serving a 28-year prison sentence for the death of a Compton businessman in January 2015.

## Serena Williams has a 2-book deal

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Now that she's stepped back from the sport she dominated like few others, Serena Williams is ready to reflect.

The tennis great has a two-book deal with the Random House Publishing Group, starting with an "intimate" memoir in which she will open up about everything from her childhood and early tennis training, dramatized in the 2021 film "King Richard," to her extraordinary career and the obstacles and setbacks she endured along the way. The book is not yet titled and does not have a release date.

"For so long, all I was focused on was winning, and I never sat down to look back and reflect on my life and career," Williams, who in August gave birth to her second child, said in a statement Wednesday. "Over the last year I've really enjoyed taking the time with my growing family to celebrate my accomplishments and explore my other passions. I couldn't be at a more perfect place to be able to take-on such a personal intimate project, and there's no one I would rather do it with than the team at Random House."

The second book, also untitled, will be an "inspirational" work, according to Random House, which announced that "Williams will offer rules for living that draw on her experiences as a philanthropist and advocate, her career as an investment unicorn with Serena Ventures, and someone who has long sought to lift a diverse and emergent generation of young women whose aspirations are not confined to the court."

Williams, 42, announced her retirement—famously eschewing that term and saying instead she was "evolving" away from professional tennis—shortly before the 2022 U.S. Open. She has not played since that tournament, which included a second-round victory over No. 2-ranked Anett Kontaveit before a third-round loss to Ajla Tomljanovic.

Williams left the sport with 23 Grand Slam titles in singles, another 14 in doubles with her sister Venus, more than 300 weeks at No. 1 in the rankings and four Olympic gold medals. She also has been widely cited for breaking down racial barriers in tennis and racial and gender barriers in sports and beyond.

AP

Serena Williams arrives at the premiere of "Creed III" on Feb. 27, 2023, at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles.

In an essay published in Vogue last year, she wrote that she hoped that because of her success "women athletes feel that they can be themselves on the court. They can play with aggression and pump their fists. They can be strong yet beautiful. They can wear what they want and say what they want and kick butt and be proud of it all."

Her previous books include a memoir from 2009, "On the Line," and a picture story, "The Adventures of Qai Qai," released last year.

## Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh plans to expand with a $45 million event venue

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh has announced plans to expand with a $45 million events venue.

The entertainment project is part of the museum's 'Pop District' initiative and would be built on an existing museum parking lot, according to Dan Law, the museum's associate director. Museum officials presented plans for the project to the city's Planning Commission on Tuesday.

The proposed site would be around 58,000 square feet (17,500 square meters), including a first-floor concert venue with standing room for up to 1,000 people, a second-floor mezzanine, and an events space that could hold up to 360 people on the fourth floor. The third floor would be used for offices and support spaces.

Rick Armstrong, a museum spokesman, said work on the project could begin as soon as spring 2024, but the timelines are "still flexible" as the project moves through the planning and design processes.

## Family walks on eggshells amid fertility struggles

**DEAR ABBY:** My son married a wonderful woman. Sadly, they are having great difficulty conceiving a baby. They have opted out of many conventional medical procedures because of their religious beliefs, for which I admire them.

While their struggles persist, another close family member has recently had a baby. My daughter-in-law has chosen not to see this family member or the baby because of the emotional pain of not being able to conceive herself. My son, who I know is torn, is supporting his wife. Our visits with them never include the new mom, dad and baby. My son has met the baby twice on the down-low without my DIL.

Our hearts are heavy. Our nuclear family has always been close, but this is putting a strain on the rest of us, although we empathize with my DIL's emotional pain. What advice can you offer for this situation?

SADDENED IN THE EAST

**DEAR SADDENED: Your daughter-in-law's circle of friends (not to mention family) is going to shrink to nothing if she persists in hiding from anyone who has reproduced. Unless her religious beliefs discourage psychological counseling, she should absolutely reach out for some, and your son (who is already seeing the new baby on the down-low) should insist upon it.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have always had a great relationship with my in-laws. My father-in-law, "Jerry," is a contractor who has generously helped us with renovations and other work around our condo. We moved to a house last year and expressed interest in a new bathroom floor. We bought all the materials and removed the old floor so he could install the new one.

When Jerry offered to buy us a new vanity, we thanked him and accepted. After ordering it, he now wants us to put some money toward the sink and faucet. (We also owe him for air fare to an out-of-state wedding.) My husband, "Eddie," is mad and doesn't want to give his dad anything because he says Jerry "can afford it," while some months are more difficult for us. I don't know if I can morally live with not giving my father-in-law what we owe him.

INDEBTED IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR INDEBTED: And ... the difference between you and Eddie is this: You have character, while your husband is ungrateful and entitled. Your father-in-law should be paid what is owed him. Warn Eddie that if he doesn't cough up the money—on installments, if necessary—his father's generosity is likely to "contract" and with good reason. Your husband should be ashamed of himself.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Our next-door neighbor, "Fred," retrieves his newspaper nude every morning about 4:30. We realized it after installing a Ring doorbell. Our video captures a very graphic image daily. Should we tell him?

X-RATED IN THE U.S.A.

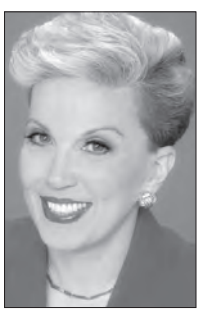
**DEAR X-RATED: If your neighbor doesn't realize he's on camera, he deserves to know he's overexposed. In this day and age, with the popularity of Ring, there are few secrets anymore. By all means, tell Fred—and when you do, offer to give him a print. (Or a pair of shorts.)**

■ ■ ■

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

### DEAR ABBY

**By Abigail Van Buren**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

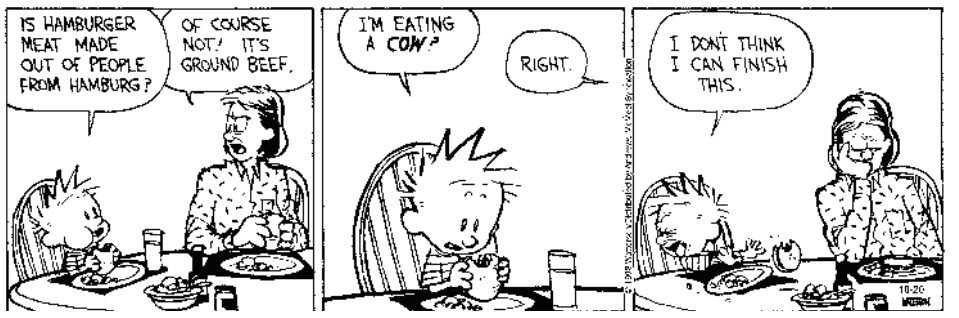


*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

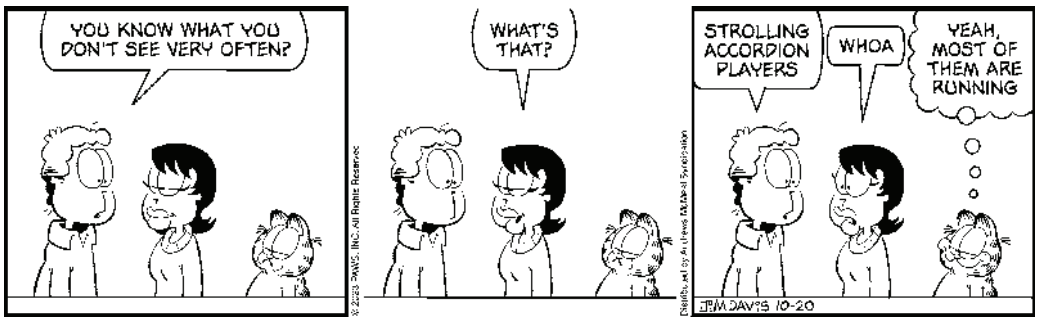
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IS HAMBURGER MEAT MADE OUT OF PEOPLE FROM HAMBURG?
OF COURSE NOT! IT'S GROUND BEEF.
I'M EATING A COW?
RIGHT.
I DON'T THINK I CAN FINISH THIS.

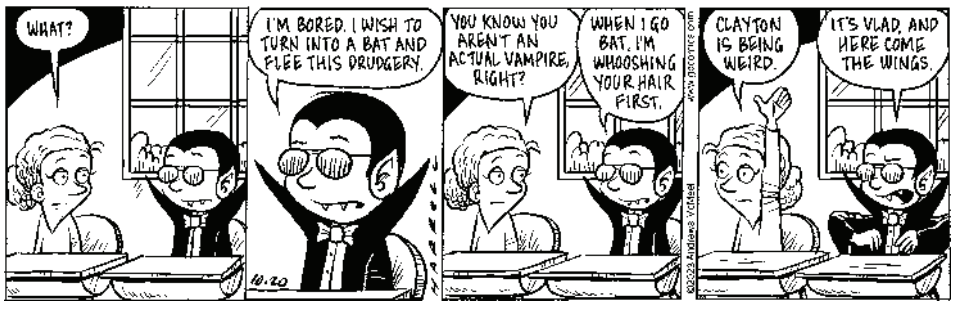
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



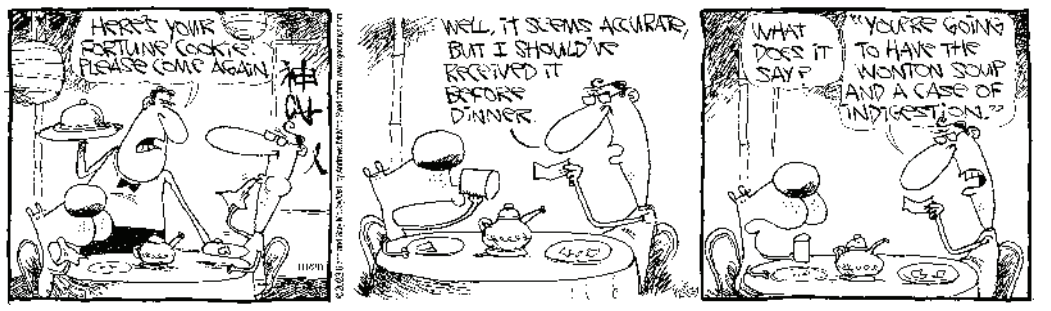

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT?
I'M BORED. I WISH TO TURN INTO A BAT AND FLEE THIS DRUDGERY.
YOU KNOW YOU AREN'T AN ACTUAL VAMPIRE, RIGHT?
WHEN I GO BAT, I'M WHOOSHING YOUR HAIR FIRST.
CLAYTON IS BEING WEIRD.
IT'S VLAD, AND HERE COME THE WINGS.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HERE'S YOUR FORTUNE COOKIE. PLEASE COME AGAIN.
WELL, IT SEEMS ACCURATE, BUT I SHOULD'VE RECEIVED IT BEFORE DINNER.
WHAT DOES IT SAY?
"YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE THE WONTON SOUP AND A CASE OF INDIGESTION."

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Preparedness kit
6 Candle count
9 Teeny
12 Accustom
13 Shad product
14 Days of yore
15 Puccini opera
16 Computer worm, e.g.
18 Not casual
20 Bard's river
21 "Me time" resort
23 Punker Vicious
24 Acts like a raptor
25 Belgrade resident
27 Oregon's capital
29 Goodies
31 Vinegary
35 Cake tier
37 Queue after Q
38 Stupefy
41 "Top Hat" studio
43 Proof letters
44 Activist Parks
45 Undisturbed
47 Workplace perk, maybe
49 Draws close
52 Small bill
53 " — Kapital"
54 Singer Carpenter
55 Snitch
56 Crumb carrier
57 Bloodhound's clue

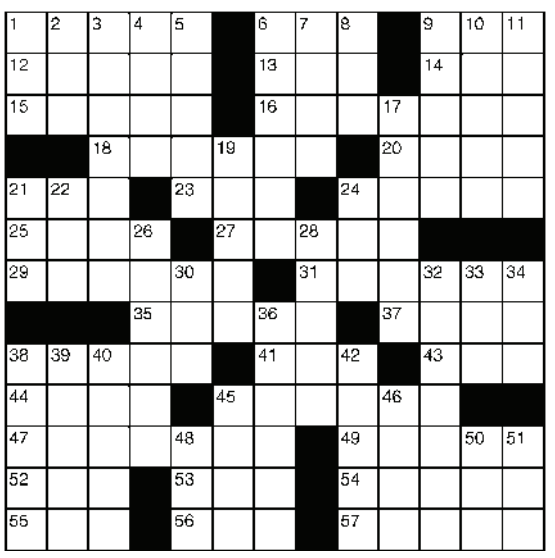
**DOWN**

1 "Shoo!"
2 "Double Fantasy" musician Yoko
3 Commuting cost
4 Not pizzicato
5 Bike components
6 Fleet
7 Soccer score
8 Slithery fish
9 Hair extension
10 "The Jetsons" boy
11 Idyllic spots
17 More friendly
19 Singer Elliott
21 Concorde, e.g.
22 For each
24 Chest muscle
26 French novelist
28 Songbirds
30 Inventor's monogram
32 Drafting tool
33 Mineral suffix
34 Cow's chaw
36 Papa Hemingway
38 Passion
39 Disney film set in Polynesia
40 To date
42 Pig's greetings
45 Pakistan neighbor
46 Squad
48 Nabokov novel
50 Seminary subj.
51 NBC weekend show

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | L | O | B | | A | P | P | | S | A | A | B |
| R | A | V | E | | I | O | U | | C | I | S | F |
| I | C | E | D | | R | I | C | | M | R | J | S |
| M | E | R | L | O | T | | K | O | A | L | A | S |
| | | | A | H | I | | | A | L | I | | |
| S | P | A | M | | G | R | A | T | I | N | G | S |
| A | S | I | | | H | O | I | | | E | N | O |
| D | I | R | E | C | T | O | R | | G | R | U | B |
| | | B | R | O | | | I | A | L | | | |
| M | E | R | F | S | T | | F | I | I | C | I | T |
| C | O | U | C | | R | O | A | | T | I | R | U |
| I | N | S | T | | A | N | D | | C | O | O | S |
| R | A | H | S | | M | A | S | | H | O | N | K |

**Yesterday's answer 10-20**



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Alona Tal, 40; John Krasinski, 44; Snoop Dogg, 52; Viggo Mortensen, 65.

**Happy Birthday:** Keep an open mind and heart when dealing with loved ones, but don't let anyone take advantage of you this year. Pay attention to detail and timelines, and take care of what's important to you before taking on someone else's tasks. A domestic change will alleviate some of your hardships and shine a light on something that will make your life easier. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 28, 31, 40, 43.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Put emotions aside and focus on what others expect of you. The hard work you put in early will pave the path to a celebratory evening. Precision, detail and preparation will keep you out of trouble and on the way to victory professionally and financially. ✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Put your energy where it counts and don't stop until you are happy with the results. A passionate approach to your pursuits will give you an advantage and encourage exciting encounters. Updating your look, surroundings and lifestyle will boost your morale. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Network, but keep your plans private until you are ready to launch. The element of surprise will give you the edge you need and keep competitors in your rearview mirror. Friendly chatter will buy you time, build confidence and attract allies. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* You have more choices to consider. A partnership looks inviting, but stipulations are necessary before you agree to take part. Don't forgo what's important because someone wants jurisdiction over your decisions. Equality is the path to new beginnings. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make decisions before someone steps in and makes them for you. Don't lose sight of what's important to you and how you want to live. Put your energy into making things happen instead of anger and upset. Say no to manipulation and interference. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Look, and you will discover an opportunity that offers a positive change to location, routine or personal appeal. Stretch your mind, explore the possibilities and head in an exciting direction. Live in the moment, use what's available and harness your dreams. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Offer what you can. Offering suggestions rather than money or hands-on help will benefit others and leave you free to reach your goals on time. An emotional situation will improve with understanding and a show of affection or approval. Romance is favored. ✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* If you want something done, do it yourself. The results will make a difference to your routine, how you live and to those closest to you. Stifle your complaints, don't try to change others and pay attention to looking and doing your best. ✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Learn through observation and doing things yourself, and you'll gain momentum. Take the opportunity to get out and enjoy community events and reunions or learn something that will help you excel. Walk away from no-win situations. Use your knowledge and experience to advance. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Invest time and money in yourself, your living quarters and your relationships. Incorporating a healthier lifestyle will encourage spending time with people heading down a similar path. Discipline, hard work and resisting temptation will lead to beneficial results. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make your skills and money work for you. Propose what you have to offer for something in return. Choose the barter system to reduce overhead and make your desired things less expensive. Think outside the box and make your dreams come true. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Follow through with your intentions, and don't spend more than what you set aside. Discuss your plans with those affected by the decisions you make. The suggestions you receive will help you keep the peace and reach your goal. Love and self-improvement are favored. ✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are intense, original and chatty. You are demonstrative and reliable.

**Birthday Baby:** You are sensitive, compassionate and steadfast. You are persuasive and ambitious.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 7 | | | 2 | 5 | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | | 2 |
| | 4 | | | | | 7 | | |
| | 9 | | | 3 | | 1 | | 5 |
| | | | 5 | | 8 | | | 4 |
| 2 | | | | | | | 9 | 7 |
| 9 | | | 3 | 8 | 5 | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 8 | | | | 2 | | |

Difficulty: ★★★★ 10/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 |

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**CHIMICHURRI SAUCE** Solution: 9 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | E | N | D | E | R | L | O | I | N | O | M | E | L |
| E | A | B | A | K | T | U | R | K | E | Y | R | S | S | I |
| G | C | L | A | S | S | I | C | H | O | P | R | R | E | M |
| A | A | L | A | K | E | T | S | A | T | E | O | G | L | E |
| S | E | O | A | Y | E | H | S | I | D | S | D | S | I | A |
| U | R | E | V | E | G | A | N | N | S | G | H | U | H | T |
| A | T | E | O | L | I | V | E | E | N | E | R | V | C | S |
| S | N | B | A | S | I | L | C | O | R | U | E | E | F | K |
| S | E | T | T | R | B | O | R | R | G | F | D | N | E | I |
| A | M | U | O | A | R | T | Y | U | A | I | I | I | E | N |
| T | I | N | B | P | N | N | A | Z | P | G | C | S | B | I |
| I | D | A | D | A | P | Y | Z | S | G | G | E | O | H | M |
| J | N | O | L | O | S | I | C | U | I | S | I | N | E | U |
| A | O | I | R | A | P | T | N | O | M | L | A | S | I | C |
| F | C | K | S | A | U | C | E | G | A | R | L | I | C | V |

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Bake, Basil, Baste, Beef, Blenders, Chile, Chop, Cider, Cilantro, Classic, Condiment, Cuisine, Cumin, Dips, Dish, Duck, Eggs, Fajitas, Fish, Food, Garlic, Green, Kale, Lemon, Lime, Meats, Olive, Parsley, Pizza, Pork, Processors, Roast, Salad, Salmon, Sauce, Sausages, Sherry, Steak, Taste, Tenderloin, Topping, Tuna, Turkey, Uruguay, Vegan, Venison, Vinegar

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# Altuve, Javier lead Astros to 8-5 win at Rangers as Houston

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Cristian Javier knew right away his fastball was working in Game 3 of the AL Championship Series. Then again, it's October, when he always seems to be at his best for the Houston Astros.

"There's not a better feeling than knowing that your teammates instill their confidence in you," Javier said through his translator. "They expect good things in you and put their trust in you."

The 26-year-old Dominican right-hander known as "El Reptil" delivered again, working into the sixth inning of another solid postseason start, and the Astros beat the Texas Rangers 8-5 on Wednesday night to close to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

"He was good. He was very good," Astros manager Dusty Baker said.

Javier held Texas to two runs and three hits over 5 2/3 innings. He threw 51 of 85 pitches for strikes and walked only one batter.

AP

Houston Astros starting pitcher Cristian Javier walks toward the dugout after throwing against the Texas Rangers during the first inning in Game 3 of the baseball American League Championship Series Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, in Arlington, Texas.

"These moments are extremely special for me," said Javier, who won for the second time these playoffs, and is 4-0 in his four career postseason starts while allowing only five total hits.

Texas lost for the first time this postseason after a 7-0 start. Three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer was gone after four innings in his first outing in more than a month after recovering from a strained shoulder muscle.

Javier set a franchise record for the defending champion Astros by extending his postseason scoreless streak to 20 1/3 innings until the fifth, when rookie All-Star starting third baseman Josh Jung hit the first of his pair of two-run homers.

"He's got that fastball, his rises a little bit, and hitters have a tough time," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said. "He's been throwing well in the postseason. We knew that coming in, we had our hands full."

After going 7-1 in his first 14 starts this year, Javier had a 7.27 ERA over a 13-game stretch. He went more than a month without a win before six scoreless innings in the regular-season finale Oct. 1 at Arizona, an 8-1 victory that clinched the AL West title.

Ryan Pressly, the third reliever, worked the ninth and induced Jung's game-ending, double-play grounder for his third save this postseason.

Jose Altuve homered while Martín Maldonado, the catcher wearing reptile-skin spikes as a nod to his pitcher's nickname, and Yordan Alvarez both had two-run singles for the Astros. They scored five runs with two outs.

Jung hit his second two-run homer in the seventh for the wild-card Rangers, who played only their second home game this postseason. They swept Tampa Bay and Baltimore — the AL's top two teams in the regular season — to get to their first ALCS since 2011 and their first postseason series against their instate division rival.

Game 4 is Thursday night, when José Urquidy pitches for Houston and Andrew Heaney starts for the Rangers. Game 5 will be Friday afternoon.

The Astros are 40-45 at home this year, losing three of four in the playoffs. But they have won 17 of their last 20 road games, including both at Minnesota in the AL Division Series and three during a record-setting sweep at Globe Life Field in early September, when they homered 16 times and outscored Texas 39-10.

"It's the strangest thing I've ever seen because usually you want to be .500 on the road and way over .500 at home," Baker said. "I asked the team in spring training to be the best road team. Maybe I should have asked them to be the best road and home team. They usually give me what I ask for."

The Rangers had trailed after only one of the previous 64 innings this postseason until a three-run second that put Houston ahead to stay.

Alvarez was hit by a 89 mph cutter on his left foot to start that frame, struggling Kyle Tucker walked and Mauricio Dubón loaded the bases with a single. Alvarez came home as Scherzer bounced a wild pitch off Jonah Heim's mitt and Maldonado, the No. 9 batter, followed with his big hit

Altuve, who went deep five times in that September series, homered leading off the third. José Abreu doubled on the first pitch in the fourth and made it 5-0 when he scored on a single by Dubón, who had three hits.

The 39-year-old Scherzer, a trade-deadline acquisition from the Mets, gave up five runs and five hits in taking the loss.

Scherzer was dealing with forearm tightness six weeks ago when he allowed seven runs—all on three homers—over three innings in the Astros' 12-3 win that wrapped up that September series. He threw 5 1/3 scoreless innings six days later, on Sept. 12 at Toronto, before going on the injured list because of the shoulder strain.

The last batter Javier faced was rookie Evan Carter, whose hard two-out liner to right sailed over Tucker's head to the wall after being misplayed into a double by the Gold Glove finalist. Hector Neris then replaced Javier, and the inning ended with a defensive gem.

Left-fielder Michael Brantley, a 36-year-old five-time All-Star who returned in August after missing 14 months with a shoulder injury, sprinted more than 80 feet to make a diving catch in the gap and take an extra-base hit away from Adolis García.

That still might not have been the best defensive play of the night.

Alvarez got robbed of what would have been his seventh homer this postseason on a 416-foot drive to straightaway center leading off the sixth. Leody Taveras made a leaping catch with his arm extended beyond the wall.

# Scherzer roughed up by Astros in return from injury, leaving with Rangers down 5 in loss

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Max Scherzer was roughed up again by the Houston Astros, this time in Game 3 of the AL Championship Series.

The Texas Rangers right-hander, who missed more than a month with a right shoulder strain, says he'll be ready for another shot at the in-state rival if needed.

Scherzer lasted four innings Wednesday night, leaving with a five-run deficit in an 8-5 loss to the Astros that cut the Rangers' series lead to 2-1.

"I don't know exactly how I'll be used from here on out," Scherzer said. "But my arm feels good. That's the No. 1 thing."

The three-time Cy Young Award winner gave up three runs in the second on a wild pitch and Martín Maldonado's two-run single, then allowed Jose Altuve's leadoff homer in the third. Houston took a 5-0 lead on Mauricio Dubón's RBI single in the fourth, when Scherzer struck out Jeremy Peña and Maldonado with a man on.

"I still feel like I had more in the tank," said Scherzer, who threw 63 pitches. "Given what the score was and how the game was unfolding, I get why they pulled me. I 100% agree with it."

Scherzer was dealing with forearm tightness six weeks ago when he allowed seven runs—all on three homers—over three innings in the Astros' 12-3 win. He exited after 5 1/3 scoreless innings six days later, on Sept. 12 at Toronto, before going on the injured list.

Scherzer had his second consecutive rough postseason start, allowing five runs and five hits with a walk, a hit batter and four strikeouts. In the NL Wild Card Series with the New York Mets last season, he gave up seven runs and seven hits, including four homers, over 4 2/3 innings in a 7-1 loss to San Diego. Scherzer was acquired by Texas from a Mets in a deadline deal this summer.

As he left the field in the fourth inning, Scherzer stopped for a brief conversation with manager Bruce Bochy as he reached the dugout, with Bochy pointing toward the bullpen. Rookie left-hander Cody Bradford replaced him the eight-time All-Star in the fifth.

"I was trying to communicate how I felt," Scherzer said. "I'm not second-guessing any decisions, but it's also my job as the starting pitcher to communicate how I feel. I still felt strong. I still feel like I could get outs. Then it's up to them to make the decision whether they want to use me or not."

The 39-year-old right-hander became the second pitcher to start for five teams in the postseason following appearances for Detroit, Washington, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Mets. Scherzer has a 7-8 postseason record in 28 games.

David Wells started for Cincinnati, Baltimore, the Yankees, Boston and San Diego from 1989-2006.

AP

Texas Rangers starting pitcher Max Scherzer walks through the dugout after throwing against the Houston Astros during the fourth inning in Game 3 of the baseball American League Championship Series Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, in Arlington, Texas.

Lefty Andrew Heaney and right-hander Dane Dunning had been the third options this postseason for the Rangers behind Jordan Montgomery and Nathan Eovaldi. When Texas decided to include Scherzer on the roster for the ALCS, Bochy didn't second-guess starting him for Game 3 over Heaney, who is set to take the mound on Thursday night.

Heaney and Dunning combined to pitch the first 5 2/3 innings of the 3-2 Division Series-opening win over Baltimore, each allowing one run.

"We did all we could to get him ready for this," Bochy said of Scherzer. "He was ready. You saw the stuff. He's one of our guys. There's no regret on that."

Scherzer, whose previous start against the Astros was in a matchup of three-time Cy Young winners, said Tuesday he is healthier physically than when he faced Justin Verlander last month. He said this outcome was about execution, not health.

"You might be able to isolate a few pitches here and there in terms of execution, but in general I thought I located the ball pretty well for a four-week layoff," Scherzer said. "But this is the postseason. There's no excuses."

# Goodell says NFL still needs to hire more minority head coaches

AP
NFL football commissioner Roger Goodell speaks to the media during league meetings Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, in New York.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the league still needs to hire more minority head coaches.

The latest rule change was aimed at increasing opportunities.

Owners voted Tuesday to push in-person head coaching interviews back one more week until after all divisional playoff games have been completed to slow down the hiring process.

"(Diversity, equity, inclusion) has received more attention in our owners' meetings than probably any subject we have been discussing in the last five years, and I think that focus has been helpful to the clubs as well as to all of us," Goodell said Wednesday after the conclusion of the league's fall meetings. "Our understanding of the priorities, the need to do this and how we do it better. I know the focus is on head coaches, we understand that, but we're focused on the entire league. How do we continue to have diversity be a part of our league and make us better?

"And we reported on the broader diversity numbers both at the league level and the club level and there is significant progress. But, when you say frustration, I'm probably always frustrated by the pace of progress. Right? It's never enough for yours truly. So, we obviously know we have work to do here, and the clubs are very focused on this, and it has to be a sustainable change, and I think that's where the ownership is."

NFL executive Dasha Smith said the league office and the 32 teams are 50% diverse. There are six minority head coaches, including three who are Black. The goal of pushing the in-person interviews back one week is to create more opportunities for candidates.

"We feel like that is a big step forward and, again, enhances our hiring process and that starts obviously this hiring cycle," league executive Jonathan Beane said.

## BRADY WAITS

Colts owner Jim Irsay said there was no conversation at the meetings about approving Tom Brady's offer to purchase a percentage of the Las Vegas Raiders. Brady already is a part-owner of the WNBA's Las Vegas Aces, who are also owned by Mark Davis. Brady reportedly has received a discounted purchase price to buy into the Raiders.

"The number just had to be a reasonable number for purchase price," said Irsay, who is a member of the finance committee that would approve the deal.

The NFL created a special committee on ownership policy several months ago to oversee these matters. Goodell said they've met five times in the past 45 days.

"They've been hard at work," Goodell said. "We want our ownership policies to be good for the owners that are in our league, for attracting new owners, particularly the diversity issue. And also, we've mentioned it before, former players who want to invest in our league. I think all of that is a positive thing for us. So, it's just a balancing act. I hope that they'll make recommendations by the March meeting so that we can act on that either at the March meeting or in the spring meeting."

## GAMBLING POLICY

The league recently changed its gambling policy to increase the penalty for betting on the NFL and decreased it for betting on other sports. The league also reduced suspensions for several players, including Lions wide receiver Jameson Williams.

"We want to try to be as clear as we can with our policies," Goodell said. "I heard feedback from our players about really understanding that and trying to be a little bit more clear on that. So it was an initiative we undertook. We obviously met with the union about it and we wanted to make sure it was clear that if you bet on the NFL, that's not acceptable. That's the key takeaway. We obviously believe that betting inside our facilities or on business is something that's inappropriate. We monitor that and we've actually adjusted that discipline so that that's lower, but the other one is betting on the NFL and that is the highest violation you can have. And we want to make sure people understand that."

# With Lawrence hobbled, Jaguars try to prolong win streak against stingy Saints

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—The Jacksonville Jaguars have looked like one of the hottest teams in the NFL during the past three weeks.

But that was with a healthy franchise quarterback.

Now Trevor Lawrence aims to play through a sprained left knee as the Jaguars (4-2) visit the New Orleans Saints (3-3) on Thursday night.

Lawrence's injury occurred in the final minutes of a 37-20 victory over Indianapolis on Sunday, leaving him little more than three full days to recover before Jacksonville's offense goes up against one of the top-performing defenses in the NFL.

The Saints rank fifth in the NFL in total defense and fifth against the pass. Their eight interceptions puts them in a six-way tie for second most in the NFL (a group that also includes the Jaguars).

"We just got to hit on all cylinders when you play a defense like this," Jaguars offensive tackle Cam Robinson said.

Lawrence has completed 67% of his passes for 1,439 yards, with seven touchdowns and three interceptions this season. But he also has been sacked 16 times. If he doesn't play in New Orleans, backup C.J. Beathard could make his first start in more than two seasons.

Since stumbling to a 1-2 start, the Jaguars have played considerably better in consecutive victories over Atlanta and Buffalo in England, and over Indianapolis at home in Week 6.

"Their confidence is extremely high right now," Jaguars coach Doug Pederson said. "We're beginning to eliminate some of those mistakes that happened early in the season. ... This team is really beginning to mature and come together."

Saints coach Dennis Allen might like to speak similarly about his own team. But for now, he can't.

Last week, New Orleans' defense held Houston to 20 points and fewer than 300 yards—only to see its offense stumble in a 20-13 loss.

The Saints' offense—now led by four-time Pro Bowl QB Derek Carr—gained more than 400 yards in that game, but was held to one or fewer touchdowns for the fourth time this season.

"We're not doing enough things the right way all the time," Carr said as he tried to explain New Orleans' red zone woes.

## STAKES AND STANDINGS

So far, the Saints have had plenty of margin for error in the weak NFC South. They're just a half game behind Tampa Bay for first place with 11 games to play. Two of their losses were by a touchdown or less, including an 18-17 setback at Green Bay in which New Orleans blew a 17-0 lead and missed a field goal for the lead in the final minute.

"That's the parity in this league," Saints linebacker Demario Davis said. "Week in and week out, you've got to be on your stuff."

Davis will get no argument from Jaguars linebacker Foyesade Oluokun, whose team entered Week 7 with a one-game lead in the AFC South.

"It's a week-to-week business," he said. "Whatever we did last week is really pointless going forward."

## BANGED-UP BLOCKERS

Both clubs' offensive lines are missing starters.

Jacksonville could be without both guards. Walker Little (knee) was ruled out and and Brandon Scherff (ankle) was listed as questionable.

The Saints are without both starting tackles from Week 6: Ryan Ramczyk (concussion) and James Hurst (ankle).

Second-year left tackle Trevor Penning, who was benched in favor of Hurst last week, is likely to start against the Jaguars. Veteran backup guard Andrus Peat, who's been limited by a groin injury, could have to play guard or tackle. Or the Saints could call up veteran tackle Cameron Erving—a 2015 first-round draft pick by Cleveland—from the practice squad.

## NOT-SO-SUPER DOME

New Orleans is one of five NFL cities in which Jacksonville has never won. The Jaguars are 0-3 in the Big Easy, having lost the past two games by a combined 28 points. They also are winless in New England (0-9), Seattle (0-4), Washington (0-4) and San Francisco (0-2).

The Superdome has been equally unkind to quarterback Trevor Lawrence, whose only two college losses came there. Lawrence and Clemson lost 42-25 to LSU in the 2019 championship game in New Orleans and 49-28 to Ohio State the following year in a College Football Playoff semifinal game.

## RIDLEY VS LATTIMORE

Jaguars receiver Calvin Ridley and Saints cornerback Marcus Lattimore will be facing off for the seventh time in their NFL careers. They used to play twice annually when Ridley was with Atlanta in the NFC South.

Ridley has 36 receptions for 556 yards and four touchdowns against the Saints, including seven catches for 146 yards and three scores in his third game as a pro in 2018.

"It's been a really good matchup," Ridley said. "Lattimore is definitely one of the best cornerbacks in the league. He plays man. He follows good receivers. He plays at the line. Just a guy that goes out there and follows the good receivers and tries his best to lock them down."

# NFL gives Goodell contract extension through March 2027

**NEW YORK** (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell received his long-expected contract extension on Wednesday.

"The Compensation Committee updated the full ownership today that an agreement has been reached to extend Commissioner Roger Goodell's contract for three years, through March 2027," the league announced in a statement.

A person familiar with the details told The Associated Press that Goodell's deal includes clauses for extension or succession. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because details weren't released.

Goodell's current contract was set to expire in spring 2024.

"It really was quite simple," Goodell said. "It was just a matter of getting to it. It wasn't much of a discussion. I'm obviously honored to do this job."

Financial terms of Goodell's new contract weren't immediately known. He reportedly earned $63.9 million for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons.

The 64-year-old Goodell has served as commissioner since succeeding Paul Tagliabue in 2006. He began his NFL career as an administrative intern in 1982 under then-Commissioner Pete Rozelle.

Under Goodell's leadership, the NFL's popularity and revenue have skyrocketed. The Washington Commanders were sold for a record $6.05 billion earlier this year.

"I think it was unified, I think everyone was behind it and it just takes a while to get those things done," Colts owner Jim Irsay said of the extension. "I really think everyone is in favor, everyone is excited and everyone acknowledges the job that Roger has done. Like Paul Tagliabue, I think Roger will be in the Hall of Fame someday."

Goodell also has dealt with intense scrutiny and criticism regarding the league's handling of off-field issues involving players, including domestic violence, and the initial response to Colin Kaepernick's call for social justice by kneeling during the national anthem.

# JSN, Vik Team advance in Eagles caging playoffs

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JSN and Vik Team advanced in the masters and open division playoffs after they defeated their foes in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The games almost did not happen as it rained early in the afternoon, but thankfully it stopped and was just delayed by a few minutes. The delay in games did not dampen JSN's gameplay as they blew Gualo Rai Warriors-Win Pacific out of contention, 80-62.

LEIGH GASES

Team JSN players of the master's division pose for a photo before their playoff game and win against Gualo Rai Warriors-Win Pacific in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court Wednesday night.

LEIGH GASES

Team Gualo Rai Warriors-Win Pacific players pose for a photo before the master's division playoff game of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court Wednesday night.

JSN had an early 8-0 advantage with fast takes at the net by Jun Tabora about five minutes into the game. Finally, Gualo Rai Warriors scored until it became 14-10 with JSN still in the lead. It was posts under the net and quick passes to Marlon Cabrera and Joseph Galulu that stumped JSN's defense.

JSN's defense finally came to life and held Win Pacific to just 10 points at the end of the first quarter. JSN's Tabora and his 26 markers kept the fast pace going until the end, along with Cecilio Bisana's 18 points, and Ben Pelisamen's 11.

Gualo Rai Warriors—although it was home court advantage for them—tired out toward the end of the second quarter and onward as they could not penetrate JSN's tough defense that towered over them. Galulu made do with 12 markers, while Darwin Gonzalez had one more than him with 13.

In the game between Vik Team and IT&E, IT&E fell prey to Vik Team one last time as they lost, 66-97.

IT&E came out of the league winless as they could not seem to tough it out against the league's other teams. From the jumpball, Vik Team had victory in their sights as they did not waste any time to put a score up.

Vik Team had possession most of the game as IT&E fumbled their way through the court—depending on Patrick Morales to take them to the Promised Land—but to no avail.

Morales tried to carry the team the whole way with a game-high 19 points, but Vik Team's chemistry and better ball handling shut him and his team down. Rodjay Macaraig tried to hustle his way to help Morales with 14 points, while Henry Divinagracia contributed 13, but it wasn't enough to stop the flow of Vik Team's back-to-back buckets.

Vik Team's Joseph Torres put up 16 points, followed by San De Vero's 15, and Yugie Cruz's 11 markers.

The playoff game last Tuesday was delayed due to rain. Last night's game, if it went through, was between Priority Care and Winner's Group and Loving Hands vs. Solid North.

**JSN 80** – Tabora 26, Bisana 18, Pelisamen 11, Montano 9, Berline 6, Umali 6, Manabat 4.

Gualo Rai Warriors-Win **Pacific 62** – Gonzalez 13, Galulu 12, Samson 8, Agbanlog 6, Alano 6, Cabrera 6, Sablan 4, Younis 4, Tengco 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-10, 39-21, 58-43, 80-62.

**Vik Team 97** – Torres 16, S. De Vero 15, Cruz 11, I. De Vero 10, Nicodamus 9, Reyes 8, Apasan 8, Bathan 5, Gontar 5, De Dios 4, Ibe 4, Castro 2.

**IT&E 66** – Morales 19, Macaraig 14, Divinagracia 13, Pineda 12, Jose 5, Tapay 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 25-11, 48-23, 69-43, 97-66.

## 14

*From page 24*

Deseha Mendiola and Summer Manahane from Saipan Southern High School; Serin Chung, Kaithlyn Chavez, and Landen Taflinger from Saipan International School; and Takeru Jim, Rex Pixley, Pony Tang, Michael Miller, and Jian Chun from Marianas High School.

They will go up against runners from schools at Palau XC, Guam Adventist Academy, John F. Kennedy High School, Seisen International School, Southern High School, Christian Academy in Japan, International School of the Sacred Hearts, Gyeonggi Suwon International School, Yongsang International School- Seoul, Academy of Our Lady of Guam, Canadian Academy, Japan, Guam High School, St. Mary's International School, George Washington High School, Chadwick International, Cheongna Dalton School, Father Duenas Memorial School, St. John, Notre Dame High School, and Guam Home School.

Coach and SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder was asked how well he thinks the team will do and he said, "The competition is very stiff and we are missing some top runners because of conflicts and injuries. Still, I think we have a great opportunity to have 2-3 students make the All-Island Award."

The CNMI last competed in 2019 in Japan. In 2018's championship SIS' Anika Snyder, Malika Miyawaki, Tania Tan, Stella McCallion, and Marianas High School's Therize Millare and Jerlyn Castillo finished third overall in the girls division. Tan was also the first CNMI runner to make it to the elite All-Island team of the 2018 championships in Guam.

There are awards for Top 15 Individual All-Island, Boys Team Championship, Girls Team Championship, and Relay Championship.

The team, including coach Snyder, left yesterday and acting Education commissioner Eric Magofna and Public School System Athletics Program director Nick Gross saw them off and wished them good luck.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's high school cross country team in Guam for the Asia Pacific International Cross Country Championships poses for a photo yesterday before their warm ups.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's high school cross country team is seen on a tour of the course for the Asia Pacific International Cross Country Championships on Guam yesterday.

## CNMI

*From page 24*

Mendiola, Guillerma Chong, Jenisha Dubrall, Tianna Aldan, Sydney Madden, Zoe Lee, and Danielle Formalejo.

SPC men's team is made up of Carter Calma, Joseph Weaver, Joseph Plunkett, Manuelito Rey, Justin Andrew, Tyler Andrew, Yu Chai, Michael Peters, Terry Ruben, Mitchell Kukkun, Phillip Aldan, and Willie Cabrera.

MPP's team includes Jasseline Seman, Arielle Buyum, Shelli Neal, Joannie Reyes, Frances "Shine" Santos, Vina Seelam, Solly Takai, Molly Dennert, Amanda Santos, Carmilynn Ogumoro, Mardee Hermosilla, Maggy Moussalem, Max Garcia, Selmalyn Lopez Taitano, Shirley Ann Taitano Deleon Guerrero, and Nina Manglona.

SPC has five teams: a junior boy team (only sprints); junior girl team (only sprints); open men's team(sprints and distance); open women's team(sprints and distance); and a mixed team(sprints and distance).

They have six V1 racers in the open category: Tyler Andrew, Phillip, Calma, Mendiola, Oronigo, and Dubrall.

For MOC, the men's team consists of Tim Asaivao, Jose Quan, Billy Grow, Richard Sikkel, Jason Tarkong, Steve Beyer, Dan Taitano, and Jovano Taitano.

MOC's women's team includes Elaine Sablan, Lori Rabe, Bonny Grow, Olivia Tenorio, Pipit Ball, Vicky Takai, Ayessa Teryama, Momoko Halstead, and Annrita Benavente. The managers with them are Ta'ann Demapan and Sakura Halstead.

As president of NMNPSF, Justin Andrew said, "I am so happy to see full participation from our NMI outrigger paddlers and their clubs to support our Guam paddling sister clubs and their members. Way to represent the NMI and their respective clubs. The NMNPSF wishes everyone the best."

As an athlete and president of SPC, he said, "I am also excited to have SPC show full force here to race. We have seven junior boys and seven junior girls, six young adult women, and five adult men. This is an opportunity for our young athletes to enjoy the races, learn more about the sport, and make new friends."

He added that many of the SPC junior paddlers are members of the NMI Va'a National Team for the Pacific Games at the Solomon Islands.

Asaivo, MOC president and paddler, said, "After a successful local race season the team is excited to compete in Guam waters against other island nations like Guam, Palau, Yap, Pohpnei. We couldn't have asked for better preparation leading into MicroCup."

Asaivo added, "The team's chemistry is good and I feel we're peaking at the right time. This will be the first time to compete in the Mix Crew category this year which is a testament to the growth of our sport. MOC would like to thank the support of our families and sponsors for making this possible and best of luck to the other Saipan teams competing, Saipan Paddling Club and Marianas Pacific Paddlers."

MPP left for Guam today as they do not have junior paddlers. Buyum, in place of MPP president Maria Ornes who is off-island, said "Marianas Pacific Paddlers is very excited to be entering two boats into the women's V6 competition. We have 16 athletes competing, eight in each crew. Of the 16, this will be the first off island competition for 14 of them. MPP is proud to grow the sport and give these athletes their first opportunity to paddle competitively. It is a testament to the dedication and commitment of these athletes. We could not be prouder of their growth and development over the season all under the skillful training of coach Eddie Johnson."

## MP

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in the second half for the first goal, while the second and last goal of the game was made by Catalina Dela Cruz four minutes later.

In other results in the intermediate division, Matansa FC silenced Kanoa FC, 3-0; Paire 2 slipped past Paire 1, 1-0; and MP United 1 won over Latte FC, 1-0.

In other results in the novice division, MP United 1 and Matansa FC ended in a scoreless draw and Latte FC beat Shirley's FC, 2-1.

### Premier League

In the first game of the Premier League last Friday, Shirley's out-goaled MP United, 7-0.

Jannah Casarino had a field day with a completed hat-trick by the 33rd minute, followed by a goal from Jeraldine Castillo for a 4-0 game.

Raven Anderson added one a couple of minutes later, then Melody Johnson made it 6-0. Anderson scored the seventh goal toward the end of the game, while MP United had no chance at the goal.

Altuve, Javier lead Astros to 8-5 win at Rangers as Houston.

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JSN, Vik Team advance in Eagles caging playoffs.

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# 14 runners to compete in Asia Pacific Cross Country champs

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's high school cross country team is seen running in the track for the Asia Pacific International Cross Country Championships on Guam yesterday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Fourteen of the CNMI's cross country runners are off to compete in the Asia Pacific International Cross Country Championships on Guam today and tomorrow.

The runners are from six Saipan high schools and are competing against other high school students from Japan, Palau, South Korea, and Guam.

In the two-day event, they will race twice—a traditional 5K course and then a relay where boys and girls will race together in 2.5K segments along Ypao Beach.

The CNMI team consists of Victor Nash Santos from Mount Carmel School; Pia Ngewakl from Kagman High School; Jireh Wang and Samuel Zhu from Agape Christian School;

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# CNMI va'a clubs in Guam for Micronesia Cup

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The CNMI's va'a clubs under the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation—the Saipan Paddling Club, Marianas Outrigger Club, and Marianas Pacific Paddlers—sent teams down south to Guam for the 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race that will be held today until Sunday, Oct. 22.

They are competing against paddlers from Micronesia at the waters off Matapang Beach, Tumon. The categories are V1 open, V6 Jr. sprints, V6 open sprints, and marathon.

SPC women's team includes Teresa Sablan, Erryne Dasalla, Cassandra Sumor, Ava Benavente, Eva Weaver, Vinalynn Oronigo, Gracie

*See CNMI on Page 23*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Outrigger Club paddlers pose for a photo yesterday at the Saipan International Airport before flying to Guam for the 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race that will be held today until Sunday, Oct. 22.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Paddling Club paddlers pose for a photo yesterday at the Saipan International Airport before flying to Guam for the 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race that will be held today until Sunday, Oct. 22.

# MP United 2 notches wins in women's soccer

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

MP United 2's two teams in the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Fall 2023 Dove Women's League and in the novice division won both of their games at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.

MP United 2 defeated Shirley's FC, 5-1, in the intermediate division. Hannah Robertson drew first blood in the 11th for MP United, followed immediately by a goal from Shirley's Werlly Breakenridge to tie the game up in the 17th minute.

Then, it was back-to-back goals for MP United as Sachi George and Moriah Sablan made it a 3-1 game. The first half came and went without a peep from Shirley's, while Sablan added another goal in the 42nd minute. The fifth goal came 10 minutes later from Erlinda Shimizu.

In the novice division, MP United 2 blanked Paire FC, 2-0.

MP United's Brittney Gopez finally broke the silence

*See MP on Page 23*

NMIFA

MP United 2's Lizann Deleon Guerrero, right, wrestles the ball away from Shirley's Stephanie Lumbad during their game in the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Fall 2023 Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.